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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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8 May 1984

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MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

VIEWS ON CPSU CC PLANNED MILITARY POLITICAL EDUCATION REFORM

Basic Military Training Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by M. Gurchenko, secondary school director: "Our General Concern"]

[Text] For three years our school has received unsatisfactory evaluations in basic military training of students. And not because the pedagogical collective and the party organization didn't understand the importance of this sector of work. There's some other reason--the absence of a training and material base which is considered compulsory and to a decisive degree influences the evaluation of that which is achieved. As a director, I have known for a long time which training objectives are necessary for basic military training. It's only vague how to create them by virtue of which resources. It is suggested that the organizations which give advice and assistance here can and must assist the school. But it's only suggested.

Our school serves two military posts. A considerable portion of the students are children of military service personnel. In short, we have every reason to appeal to commanders and political workers for assistance and to consider the military collectives our patrons. But the school is not receiving assistance and support. Of course, the unit has its own tasks and concerns. But, as you know, any enterprise, kolkhoz and sovkhoz also has its own tasks and concerns. And the statutes of the CPSU Central Committee draft on further developing the advice and assistance of production collectives to schools seem extremely urgent to me. /It's necessary also to strengthen advice and assistance contacts between schools and military units and VUZ's./ [in boldface] A schoolboy is tomorrow's worker and soldier.

We succeeded in correcting the matter of basic military training at a cost of great efforts. They equipped a tactical field, an area for drill instruction and a place for studying sentry duties. Now we also have quite a good military classroom and a room for storing training weapons. Every week we have studies on the program of the military and sports game "Orlenok." The teenagers are involved with a great desire in clubs, including shooting ones. At the last inspection two months ago, the school received a good evaluation on basic military training and an excellent one on physical training.

But nevertheless there's no real satisfaction. We really need a firing range and an obstacle course. For three years we haven't been able to get dummy cartridges and up to the present we also don't have training grenades. All this is in a school which is in the vicinity of military units and annually provides a considerable reinforcement for the military schools.

I think it should be said in the document on school reform: /"The schools create the material and technical base necessary for studying the foundations of military matters with the active assistance of patron organizations--industrial enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and military units."/ [in boldface]

Student Responsibilities Outlined

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Candidate of Economic Sciences Lieutenant Colonel Kh. Tairov: "Life Demands"]

[Text] As the father of three schoolboys I know: studying doesn't come easy for children and it requires a great effort from them everyday. I can't help but support the statutes of the CPSU Central Committee draft on the necessity for eliminating the overload on students and the excessively complicated nature of curriculum materials. Today you really can't call school programs perfect. But at the same time, I hope we elders won't sympathize with our heirs and we can't close our eyes to the fact that life demands a higher and higher level of erudition from young people. The quality of erudition of secondary and, incidentally, higher school graduates is a political matter. In the end, the level of labor productivity, the country's defensive capability and many many other things depend on resolving it.

While improving school programs, it's necessary to free them from minor and unessential matters, but under no conditions to permit a reduction in the general education training of young people.

I believe it's necessary to provide a great continuity between secondary general education, vocational and higher schools. But not by virtue of simplifying the entrance examinations at institutes and universities. The secondary school is obliged to catch up with the rest.

The statutes of the draft on the labor upbringing of the rising generation are clear and close to me as with all Soviet people. It would be especially useful to emphasize in the school reform document that the main--both in meaningfulness for society and in complexity and intensity--labor for a teenager is studying. I would also consider a point such as this appropriate: /"Increase in every way possible the responsibility of students for the results of studying and create a moral atmosphere in pupil collectives under which each one would strive to the end to discover his abilities and to master the curriculum and the syllabi."/ [in boldface]

Parents' Responsibilities Outlined

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Captain Yu. Mironov of the Red Banner Far East Military District: "It Begins in the Family"]

[Text] At one of the parents' meetings an idea such as this was expressed: in a family of workers children also grow up as workers. That would be all right, I thought, but everything is more complicated in life. As great as the importance of the parents' personal example is, at times it's inadequate. It's necessary to train children to work while requiring them to perform feasible but specific duties both at school and at home.

One of the aviation mechanics gave me a lot of trouble. The young soldier's theoretical training was quite good, but, if it's possible to say so, his hands weren't trained for anything serious. This strapping and strong youth had only one concern at home--watching television programs, listening to tape recordings and reading books. Here's a person who grew up a softie. As far as I know, his parents were great workers.

I strongly support the statutes of the CPSU Central Committee draft about the fact that parents must organize the labor of children in the family--for maintaining order in the living quarters, preparing food, washing and mending clothes, and repairing household appliances and household articles. It's also right that students are obliged to participate in cleaning up classrooms and study rooms and monitoring the cleanliness and public services and amenities of school yards, sports grounds and so forth. But in fact, while standing in an army formation, some young people don't know how to clean potatoes and to damp mop their quarters. Are these really small points? Just who's going to do all this for them?

Work is not always easy and pleasant. It's from the same root as the word "difficult." It's useful to learn this truth at an early age. A great deal here depends on the attitude of the parents.

Military Instructor's Role Outlined

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Captain 3rd Rank A. Alekseyev: "The Authority of a Military Instructor"]

[Text] I think there's still a great deal of nonutilized reserves in the military and patriotic upbringing of students and in training them for military service. Basic military training of young people does not always achieve its purpose.

I'm making this judgement by the recruits with whom our unit is being reinforced. Some of them don't know what they were obliged to master in secondary school. Resources are expended and time is spent, but there are no erudition and skills. Meanwhile, evaluations of basic military training are high.

There are also cases such as these. For example, we couldn't allow the sailors P. Veliyev and A. Kvaratskhveliy to study a combat specialty, and for the time being we didn't help eliminate deficiencies in mastering the Russian language. But, in fact, they have secondary school behind them. I think that a situation such as this must disturb military instructors. They also don't have a right to close their eyes to neglect in organizing the physical upbringing of future soldiers.

In my opinion, the main concern of a military instructor is the quality of studies in basic military training. While supporting the suggestion for increasing the role of the military instructor which has already been stated on the newspaper pages, I think that in this case it is impossible under any circumstances to place additional responsibilities on him which are not connected with training young people for service in the army and the navy.

A military instructor has a range of duties and it's broad enough as it is. He also has the right to evaluate work on the military and patriotic upbringing of students with party principledness and to depend on the support of the director, communists and Komsomol members, teachers and students.

Importance of Grades Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by retired Lieutenant Colonel Engineer K. Osharin: "For An Average Grade"]

[Text] I support Lieutenant S. Sidorov's opinion which was stated during the discussion of the CPSU Central Committee draft on school reform: /the results of studies at secondary general education and vocational schools must certainly be considered for admission to VUZ's/ [in boldface]

In my opinion, the statute on considering the average grade of a diploma during competitive enrollment of secondary school graduates at VUZ's was a progressive and timely step. On the one hand, it forced some portion of the students to study diligently all subjects being taught at school. On the other hand, it saved the teachers from the necessity of constantly demonstrating the importance of one subject or another.

If we refuse to consider the results of studies in school, then the diploma's evaluative indicators on the whole lose their importance. And doesn't diligence multiplied by abilities really merit support and encouragement?

Role of Extracurricular Institutions

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by retired Senior Lieutenant G. Gol'shteyn: "According to the Place of Residence"]

[Text] In my opinion, extracurricular institutions--palaces of culture, homes for Pioneers and school-children, stations for young technicians and naturalists,

and Pioneer camps--must play a more and more active role in the system of labor upbringing, instruction and vocational orientation of students.

For example, the popularity is great among the Kaliningrad school-children of a local station for young technicians and of which students from the fifth to the tenth grades are involved in numerous hobby groups. At the station the school-children not only find a matter to their liking, but also experienced educators. There are quite a number of retired and reserve officers among them. In the hobby groups the teenagers acquire work habits, take a great interest in the equipment and extend their general education training.

Quite a number of engineers and designers, officers and highly skilled workers have come from the pupils of the station for young technicians. The skills obtained by the young people in the hobby groups help them in their military service and they facilitate mastering the complex combat specialties.

There are even USSR pilots and cosmonauts among those who at one time were involved at the station for young technicians.

/It's important not only to assign a base enterprise to each school for active influence on the vocational orientation of young people, but also for the long term to create in each region a complex of extracurricular institutions with a broad spectrum for directing activities./ [in boldface]

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

MILITARY PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF YOUTH DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by D. Okhromiy, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, under the rubric "Military-Patriotic Indoctrination of the Youth": "Preparedness to Join the Formation"]

[Text] The military, commissariats are busy in the spring and fall--the induction is under way, and the army and navy are getting replenishments. It is especially crowded around the memorials and monuments to military glory during those days: Future soldiers come there to hear words of well-wishing and to have mental contact with the feat accomplished by the older generations. At the Dubosekovo Crossing, where in the fall of 1941 28 Panfilov heroes died opposing an enemy rushing toward Moscow, the workers of Volokolamskiy Rayon, Moscow Oblast, see their fellow countrymen off to join the ranks of the Armed Forces. The memory of the grand, exciting minutes and the wishes of family, veterans and comrades from the combat Komsomol formation remain in the young hearts for a long time.

This is very important. It is the crowning point, as it were, of the extensive work performed by Komsomol organizations to develop in the youth a love for the Soviet Armed Forces and a readiness to perform a feat. Time passes, and good news speeds back to the soldier's native parts from commanders and political workers: The homeland's young defenders are rapidly fitting into the intense rhythm of the army and navy service and are successfully learning to handle the combat equipment and weapons. The big news will also go out to the Komsomol organizations, which have done a great deal to prepare the youth for the service. It will be a sort of evaluation of their contribution to this necessary and important job.

The work of Komsomol organizations of Khmel'nitskiy Oblast in the military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth and preparation of the youth for the service in light of demands set at the 26th CPSU Congress and the 19th Komsomol Congress was discussed relatively recently at a meeting of the Secretariat of the Komsomol Central Committee. The discussion was useful. The Khmel'nitskiy people have a lot of good things, things which others could adopt. They have responded actively to the ideas and proposals contained in the CPSU Central Committee's plan for school reform and are taking part in the work of improving the system of Military Training, creating the physical plant and selecting

qualified military instructors. The oblast Komsomol is having a perceptible effect on the functioning of defense-sports camps and military-patriotic associations. Incidentally, this sort of substantive approach is also taken by Komsomol organizations of Leningrad and Donetsk oblasts and Khabarovsk Kray.

Yes, we state with pride that preparing the youth to serve in the army and navy has been and remains a vital cause of the Komsomol. Considerable experience has already been accumulated, and the best working traditions serving the work of accomplishing a task of state importance have become firmly established: to develop real patriots, who as the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee stressed, work tirelessly to strengthen our homeland's economic and defense capability, improve their readiness to protect peace against all encroachments by the imperialist aggressor, and are conscientious about their military duties.

We know that the training of the future fighting man is not an isolated process but an inseparable part of the communist indoctrination of the youth, of the development in them of a high level of ideological conviction, class vigilance, spiritual and moral perfection, of diverse skills in handling the equipment and weapons. This work is incompatible with fuss and formalism and will not tolerate indifference. It requires the adoption of a well conceived and scientifically based system. How could we forget Lenin's inspiring words: "...military training... does not demand the burst of effort, the rallying cry or the combat slogan, but lengthy, intense, determined and disciplined work on a large scale."

Especially perceptible results are achieved where the matter is organized on this basis. I recall a trip to the Red Banner Northern Fleet and meetings with the sailors. The commanders had the most favorable things to say about the young replenishments. And every sailor with whom I spoke recalled with gratitude the military instructor at the school where he studied, the DOSAAF club or the defense sport camp set up at the initiative of the Komsomol Committee.

I am confident that 638 cadets of military schools and officers of the Armed Forces would have the same good memories of the Baku Boarding School, which made it possible for them to select a noble and courageous career in life--that of defending the homeland. The school has an excellent physical plant, a sports center and a rifle range.

We know that the process of acquainting the youth, the future fighting men, with the basics of military affairs begins in the secondary school. The children demonstrate great interest in these classes. One should see how enthusiastically they learn about the weapons, how impatiently they await their first opportunity to fire. Are these hopes always justified, however? Unfortunately, they are not. They have training weapons, after all, as do the other schools, but they are kept under lock and are placed into the hands of the students as rarely as possible. When there are no weapons, no effort is made to learn to handle them. Not every school has a firing range, of course, but even where there is a range one does not hear the sound of shots so very frequently. Defects in the organization, lack of coordination, shortcomings.... Unfortunately, this has not been given close attention by the Komsomol Committees in all places. The Komsomol workers shrug their shoulders in such cases. This is the school's problem, they say. But is it not the Komsomol's job to create the training plant for Military

Training? And what about the selection and training of military instructors? Reserve sergeants and lower ranks have recently begun joining the group of military instructors, after all. It is entirely unforgiveable for the Komsomol organizations of this or that town to have poor ties with military personnel at the local garrison.

I frequently visit army subunits and the combat ships. In my talks with the young fighting men I have repeatedly asked them what difficulties they encounter. They most frequently say that they find the physical training exercises difficult. This results entirely from the fact that the Komsomol Committees ignore the physical training of the future draftees in some rayons. The comrades claim that there is a shortage of sports facilities and cite other reasons. To put it mildly, none of this stands up to criticism. There are 3-year Komsomol plans, after all, which call for the reconstruction of sports facilities and the construction of new ones. We can see that there is considerable room for initiative. But how do we explain the fact that even when there are stadiums, pools and sportgrounds, the youth entering the army from those places still do not stand out with respect to their physical conditioning? The following is an eloquent demonstration of this, in my view. The Fergananeftorgsintez Production Association has a pool in Fergana. Last summer we checked on the operation of that pool. No matter when we went to the pool, however, we found only a couple of sportsmen swimming there....

The individual who takes part in the military-patriotic work should have solid skills and knowledge. And this is precisely what some Komsomol leaders lack. This is what gives rise to formalism and attempts to pass off wishful thinking as reality. In order to avoid this, the comrades responsible for organizing such important work should themselves take their place at the school desk from time to time, figuratively speaking, add to their theoretical training and increase their expertise.

I would especially like to mention the matter of involving reserve military men in this work. Their knowledge and army conditioning are a great help in the organization of the Zarnitsa and Orlenok games. It is with good reason that councils of young reservists are being created and are already functioning successfully in many places under the staffs of the All-Union Tour of Sites of Revolutionary, Combat and Labor Glory of the Communist Party and the Soviet People for Komsomol Members and the Youth. Experience has shown that this is a needed undertaking.

The Komsomol organizations need to give closer attention to the level of military-patriotic work among the student youth. Many young people are now entering the Armed Forces literally from the VUZ desk, afterall. The Komsomol Committees must provide the military departments with more substantive assistance in the military-patriotic indoctrination of those who will be entering the military service in the future.

Unfortunately, the Komsomol of some oblasts is not taking advantage of all the possibilities in the important matter of selecting youth to enter military schools. We need to strive persistently to increase the prestige and the importance of the Komsomol pass presented to those who have chosen a career as an officer.

Nor could I fail to mention the role of the military-patriotic associations of defense-sports camps, where the children are acquainted with the glorious traditions of the army and navy. Life has demonstrated that where the trade union organizations, military commissariats, DOSAAF committees, public education departments and sports committees work hand in hand with the Komsomol raykoms and gorkoms, success is assured. I would cite the following case. There were only isolated defense-sports camps in Kazakhstan's Pavlodar Oblast in the not-so-distant past. In recent years they have been set up in every rayon, however. Unfortunately, some of the oblasts which came out in the past with useful initiatives have gone no further than just talking about it. The organizational structure of the camps has been discussed for years. In some places people draw back at the first appearance of difficulties. We cannot accept this situation.

It all depends on the initiative demonstrated by the Komsomol organizations, on their desire to make a contribution to the training of the youth to serve in the Armed Forces and bring the heroic-patriotic indoctrination of the youth up to a new level by making extensive use of the rich possibilities which are opening up now, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The Komsomol's sponsorship of the Navy, Air Forces and Frontier Troops is an important component of the military-patriotic indoctrination and mass defense work. The anniversary recruitment for the Navy on the 60th anniversary of Komsomol sponsorship of the Navy was a memorable event for all of us. It was an important landmark. We cannot fail to see the failings behind the generally impressive figures, however. The Komsomol of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, for example, have ships named after them in the Navy. There are still few representatives of the Komsomol in those republics serving on the ships, however. Is the sponsorship not sometimes limited to one or two visits by agitation brigades to the sponsored ships? I believe that the sponsorship can only gain from a more active role by the Komsomol organizations of units and ships.

There are memorable events in the life of every young person: when he first crosses the school threshold, when he excitedly puts on the bright-red Pioneer tie, when he presses the Komsomol card against his heart. The day the young person takes his place in the combat formation has a special place in those events. A special reckoning of time--the military service--begins. And it should be an excellent time! The Komsomol is expected to constantly justify the great trust of our own Leninist Party. Guided by decisions coming out of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and by instructions and recommendations provided by Comrade K. U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the Komsomol organizations must demonstrate constant concern for the training of worthy replenishments for our homeland's Armed Forces.

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WARSAW PACT

WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL TO NATO ON CURTAILING MILITARY EXPENDITURES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 2

[Article: "On the Matter of Freezing and Reducing Military Expenditures by the Warsaw Pact Participant States and the NATO Member States"]

[Text] On 5 March 1984 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania in Bucharest, by agreement among the Warsaw Pact states, a memorandum with a "Proposal by the Warsaw Pact Participant States to the NATO Member States on Talks to Freeze and Reduce Military Expenditures" attached was delivered to the embassies of England, Belgium, the FRG, Greece, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the USA, Turkey and France. Copies of the same document will be given also to the embassies of Island and Luxembourg through the London and Brussels Romanian embassies.

The Warsaw Pact states proposed to the NATO states that preparatory consultations be conducted with the participation of all nations which are a part of the two alliances to reach agreement on the beginning of talks on the mutual freezing and subsequent reduction of military expenditures.

In the situation of growing international tensions it is becoming especially important to take steps to freeze and reduce military expenditures. Reducing military expenditures would effectively contribute to a halting of the arms race and a move toward disarmament, and the funds saved as a result could be used to meet social and economic development needs, including those of the developing nations.

All states, but especially those with large military capabilities, must take part in the effort to freeze and reduce military expenditures. The implementation of such measures would be especially important for the Warsaw Pact and NATO nations, however, considering their large portion of military expenditures.

The Warsaw Pact states express their hope that the governments of the NATO nations will carefully consider this proposal, which is aimed at strengthening international peace and security and improving the political climate in Europe and throughout the world.

Proposal by the Warsaw Pact Participant States to the NATO Member States on Talks on Freezing and Reducing Military Expenditures

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Republic are deeply concerned about the arms race, which is continuing at an ever increasing rate. This has extremely dangerous consequences for international peace and security. The Warsaw Pact states are advocating a restraining of the race and a move toward disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. They advocate the achievement of agreements leading to an effective reduction of armed forces and weapons, with strict observance of the principle of equality and identical degree of security, and the assurance of a balance of power at the very lowest level.

The arms race is fueled by rapidly growing military expenditures, which are becoming an increasingly heavy burden for peoples, regardless of the level of economic development of the various nations, and are retarding economic and social progress. A reduction in military expenditures, especially by all states possessing nuclear weapons and by other militarily important states, would effectively contribute to a cessation of the arms race and a move toward disarmament, and the funds saved in the process could be used to meet social and economic development needs, including those of the developing nations. It is becoming especially important to take steps to freeze and reduce military expenditures in the situation of growing international tensions.

All states, particularly those with large military capabilities, must take part in the effort to freeze and reduce military expenditures. The implementation of such measures by the Warsaw Pact participant states and the NATO member states would be of special significance, however, in view of the large portion of military expenditures of those states.

In their Political Declaration, approved on 5 January 1983, and at the Prague conference of the Political Consultative Committee, the Warsaw Pact states proposed the immediate initiation of direct talks between the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO states for purposes of achieving practical agreement on the freezing of military expenditures and their subsequent reduction as a percentage or in absolute terms. This appeal was endorsed and concretized at a meeting of leading party and state officials of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia in Moscow on 28 June 1983. They appealed once again to the NATO states for the immediate initiation of direct talks for the purpose of achieving agreement on the freezing of military expenditures as of 1 January 1984 and on specific steps to achieve their practical and reciprocal reduction in the subsequent period.

Proposals put forth jointly or individually by the Warsaw Pact states for freezing and significantly reducing military expenditures remain in effect.

In the proposal on talks put forth by the Warsaw Pact states, they have in mind the achievement within the shortest possible period of time of specific agreements on the freezing and subsequent reduction of military expenditures, in order to use the funds saved to meet economic and social development needs, including those of the developing nations. A reduction in military expenditures should contribute to a halting of the arms race and a move toward disarmament. The proposed talks on the freezing and reduction of military expenditures would be an integral part of general efforts to achieve this objective.

The Warsaw Pact states expressed their readiness to undertake a mutual effort with the NATO states to seek realistic solutions on a mutually acceptable basis, which would make it possible to surmount the difficulties which have arisen in the discussion of the matter of freezing and reducing military expenditures. They call upon the NATO states to act in the same spirit.

In addition to proposals contained in the Prague declaration and the Moscow statement, the Warsaw Pact states propose the following possible steps for resolving the matter of reducing military expenditures: --the effecting of a small, symbolic, one-time reduction in the military budgets of the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO states (each state would itself determine the extent of the reduction) on the basis of reciprocal example, with the subsequent freezing of these budgets for approximately 3 years (this proposal is designed to make it easier to move on to more drastic reductions in military budgets through subsequent talks);

--as a first step, a one-time reduction in the military budgets of the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO states which possess nuclear weapons in an amount agreed upon in advance (the specific size of the reduction for each of these nations would be established as a portion of an agreed-upon amount of the gross national product);

--a reduction in the military budgets of those Warsaw Pact states and NATO states, resulting from the implementation of specific disarmament steps, which could be worked out in the course of the disarmament talks (each of the participants in the specific disarmament talks would specify the amount by which it would reduce its military budget upon achieving the required agreements);

--the establishment by mutual agreement of military budget ceilings below current levels.

The Warsaw Pact states are prepared to study proposals for other steps to freeze and reduce military expenditures.

The Warsaw Pact states proceed from the premise that agreements on the reduction of military expenditures must be implemented in such a way that all of the parties to the specific agreements can be certain that they are fulfilled.

In order to achieve the specific agreements it will be essential to apply maximum effort, to conduct the talks in a serious and positive spirit, to take steps contributing to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to their progress, and not to take actions which could complicate them. Mutual restraint with respect to military expenditures, as well as other similar steps taken on a reciprocal basis, could play a constructive role.

It is intended that these talks be conducted with the direct participation of all nations participating in the two alliances. The Warsaw Pact states proceed on the premise that these talks will be started as rapidly as possible. They propose that preparatory consultations be conducted by the same parties at the working level for purposes of achieving agreement on the objectives, the date and place of the talks, as well as on the level of participation, and so forth. The time and place of the preparatory consultations could be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

The Warsaw Pact states believe that conducting the proposed talks would help to improve the political climate in Europe and throughout the world and would be in keeping with the vital aspirations of peoples concerned about the steady deterioration of the international situation and the intensifying arms race.

We express hope that a positive response to this proposal will be received as rapidly as possible.

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ARMED FORCES

ADMIRAL A. SOROKIN ON EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

Moscow POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE in Russian No 2, Feb 84 pp 28-35

[Article by Adm A. Sorokin, 1st Deputy Chief of Main Political Directorate, Soviet Army and Navy: "A School for the Ideological Tempering and Indoctrination of the Motherland's Defenders"]

[Text] The Soviet Armed Forces are greeting their national holiday--Soviet Army and Navy Day--as mighty and constantly ready to give an immediate and crushing rebuff to any aggressor and to defend the achievements of socialism.

Created by the people under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by V. I. Lenin, our Armed Forces have travelled a long and glorious path. They defended the power of the Soviets in the years of the Civil War and the foreign military intervention and fought heroically on the Chinese Eastern Railway and in the area of Lake Khasan, on the Khalkhin-Gol River, and on the Karelian Isthmus. In the years of the Great Patriotic War they routed the hordes of fascist Germany and militaristic Japan, saved mankind from the Hitlerite yoke, and already 40 years later are serving as a mighty factor for the peace and security of the peoples.

Together with the armies of the countries of the socialist commonwealth, the Soviet Armed Forces are accomplishing their historic destiny in an environment of international tension unprecedented in the postwar period.

Conducting a policy of force and crude dictation, American imperialism is unceremoniously interfering in the internal affairs of other states, creating impudent brigandage in Grenada, Lebanon, Nicaragua, and Salvador, and generating crisis situations in various regions of the world. The United States is intensifying confrontation with the USSR and the countries of the socialist commonwealth and heating up a situation of antagonism between the forces of war and the forces of peace and the forces of reaction and the forces of democracy and socialism virtually along the entire front. As a result, not only are explosive situations being created in various regions, but the threat of nuclear war is hanging over the entire world.

"...The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist commonwealth," noted Comrade Yu. V. Andropov in a statement on 24 November 1983, "cannot close their eyes to the fact that Washington has declared a 'crusade' against socialism as a

social system and that those who now have given the order for the emplacement of new nuclear weapons at the threshold of our home are building their practical policy on this reckless premise. It looks as though by emplacing the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe, the governments of a number of NATO countries would like to place a concrete nuclear missile base under this adventuristic premise.

"Can the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries fail to consider this danger? No, they cannot."

The dependable defense of the socialist fatherland and our friends and allies is an exceptionally important and difficult mission for the Soviet Armed Forces. Its successful accomplishment depends in ever greater measure on the military skill and moral fortitude of the personnel. Only servicemen who are boundlessly devoted to the ideals of communism and possess the highest moral-political and combat qualities are able to turn into reality the tremendous capabilities of the technically equipped Armed Forces and accomplish their duty to the people with honor.

The Communist Party attaches tremendous significance to the indoctrinal role of our army. As is known, V. I. Lenin and prominent Soviet state and military figures devoted great attention to this question. Long ago, the 8th Congress of the RKP(b) [Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)] in March 1919 called for making the army of the Country of Soviets the "seat of not only purely military instruction, but also of general education and political indoctrination" ("KPSS v rezolyutsiyakh..." [The CPSU in Resolutions...], Vol 2, p 63). The Soviet Army is following this party line undeviatingly.

The Armed Forces are training not only a defender of the motherland, but also a builder of communism. The reliable guardsman of the fatherland's security and a harmonically developed personality are concepts which are close and which coincide to a great extent. The overwhelming majority of the Soviet youths pass through the army--a severe school for growing up, ideological-political, moral, and physical tempering, and social maturity. Therefore, the indoctrinal influence of the Armed Forces is so great and is practically extended to all society.

The indoctrinal role of the Armed Forces is growing immeasurably in our time. This is caused by many reasons.

First of all, the enemy is becoming ever stronger and more perfidious, the influence of the latest means of armed conflict on the consciousness and minds of people is growing, and weapons, combat equipment, and the conditions for military activity are becoming complex. And this requires of the Soviet servicemen even higher moral-political and combat qualities and their even more effective molding.

Next, despite the high ideological maturity of our youth, there are also negative phenomena in their midst which are impermissible in the Armed Forces. Disquieting, in particular, are belated civic development and political naivete, the dependent nature of some young people, and their unwillingness to work where society requires, it was noted at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Nor can the striving of some of the youths and girls to be distinguished

by expensive things bought by their parents' money rather than by knowledge and industriousness fail to alarm us. Bourgeois propaganda is trying to exploit these and other special features of young people's age psychology.

From its own, personal experience the youth does not know the severe tests of the class struggle and wars when the true face of imperialism was exposed to the fullest as was its hatred for the peoples of our country and for the socialist system.

The growing indoctrinational role of the Armed Forces is also caused by the fact that its influence is extended to people 18-20 years of age, when the formation, development, and consolidation of a person's basic qualities proceed especially intensively. The overall process of communist indoctrination and the molding of a comprehensively developed personality of the socialist type continues effectively in a military environment. Here, our young people receive firm ideological and moral as well as physical tempering and good technical training, and the character of genuine fighters and lofty volitional qualities are cultivated in them. Military activity and the life and living conditions of the Armed Forces collectives exert a great indoctrinational influence on them.

The most important factor which molds the serviceman's personality is political-indoctrinational work which is permeated with the ideas of the 26th Party Congress and the June and December (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

"All our ideological, indoctrinational, and propaganda work," said Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "must be decisively raised to the level of those great and difficult tasks which the party is accomplishing in the process of improving developed socialism." Here he stressed that "ideological work is being thrust more and more to the foreground." With consideration of this circumstance, proper measures are being adopted in the Armed Forces on raising the combat vitality and offensive spirit of all ideological-indoctrinational work, on strengthening its ties with life and with the activity of subunits, units, and ships, and on ensuring the complete unity of word and deed and the enrichment of the content and improvement of work methods in molding in the men the qualities of a worthy defender of the motherland and an active builder of communism.

Political-indoctrinational work includes: political training, including the study of Marxism-Leninism by the officers; the political studies of warrant officers [praporshchik and michman]; political lessons with the soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers; and mass agitation-propaganda and cultural-educational work. The main purpose of political-indoctrinational work is molding in the men lofty communist ideological conviction, a responsible attitude toward soldierly labor, high morality, and an active life's position.

A scientific, Marxist-Leninist world outlook, it was stressed at the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "makes the communists and workers conscientious political fighters who are able to evaluate social phenomena independently, see the connection between current tasks and our final goals, and conduct well-reasoned polemics with any ideological opponent." A special place is occupied by the arming of our men with the Marxist-Leninist ideas on war and the army and

the ideas and propositions on defense questions contained in the documents of party congresses and CPSU Central Committee plenums as well as in the statements of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov.

Soviet servicemen are studying the theory and policy of the Communist Party, its activity in the creation of communism, the principles of the Lenin teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland, and the history and contemporary problems in the organizational development and strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces. An important place in the political training of the personnel is occupied by theoretical problems in the development of the world socialist system, the antagonism of the two world social systems, the Leninist analysis of imperialism as the source of wars, and the scientific substantiation of the necessity for the armed defense of socialism's achievements and the accomplishment of international duty.

Inestimable indoctrinal significance is had by a study of the Soviet constitution, military regulations, and manuals, and the propagandizing of the requirements of the military oath and legal knowledge. As a result the correct understanding of the party's policy and conviction in the objective conditionalities of the sacred duty of a Soviet citizen in defending the socialist fatherland are molded in the serviceman.

All mass agitation-propaganda and cultural-educational work in the unit, on the ship, and in the subunit serves the molding of ideological conviction. Political information sessions, lectures, reports, talks, the viewing and discussion of films, plays, and television broadcasts, the reading of books, journals, and newspapers, listening to radio broadcasts--these and other forms which have justified themselves are widely used in the Armed Forces. The effectiveness of this work was raised significantly with the introduction of common political training days at which leading command and political personnel speak to the men.

Lofty moral qualities are molded in the serviceman in the process of ideological-indoctrinal work. This is furthered by the mastery of the appropriate theoretical knowledge and the standards and rules for communist morality. They are consolidated as stable habits in the course of daily military activity, when constant life in the collective requires of each one a good and fair attitude toward one's comrades, respect for the honor and dignity of one another, mutual assistance, and the exemplary performance of one's duties. Life shows that in the Armed Forces a person becomes accustomed to the strict observance of the standards of communist morality and acquires lofty moral qualities much more rapidly than under other conditions. Here the decisive role belongs to the combination of regular political training and strictly regulated collective life and activity.

Immunity and a lack of receptivity to hostile ideology are purposefully molded in the servicemen. This is served by well thought out counterpropaganda and the exposure of bourgeois and opportunistic demagogic, goals, the mechanism, and content of anti-Soviet propaganda and the ideological sabotage and anti-popular policy of the ruling circles of the imperialist states. Class hatred for imperialism is worked out on this basis, especially for American imperialism, as are morally elevated motives for intense activity in the defense of the motherland.

The indoctrinational role of the Armed Forces is also manifested through the strengthening of military discipline--a category both political and moral. Its foundation is the men's ideological conviction and the collective's spiritual maturity. Therefore, commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations are placing special emphasis on ensuring the unity of the ideological-political, soldierly-labor, and moral indoctrination of the servicemen with consideration of the special features of the various categories of personnel.

The indoctrinational role of the Soviet Armed Forces is caused primarily by their special social nature which distinguishes them radically from bourgeois armies.

As is known, in a class-antagonistic society the army influences the personnel in the moral spirit of the dominating exploiter classes, transforming the soldier into a dutiful tool of their policy and striving to make of them reliable guards of their egoistic class interests. The ruling circles are interested in the training of the soldier for accomplishment of that task alone, but not in his further fate as a citizen and personality.

Under socialism, the role of the army is basically different. In training the serviceman as a staunch and skillful defender of the fatherland, at the same time it raises a patriot, internationalist, and conscious and active builder of a new society.

In defending revolutionary achievements and the socialist motherland, the Soviet Armed Forces serve the interests of the working classes and defend them and their interests. It is impossible to overestimate the indoctrinational significance of this fact. It is precisely from these positions that the personnel consider the military-political situation in the world and evaluate the policy of reactionary circles, whole-heartedly supporting the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state and determining their role and place in the defense of socialism's achievements.

A distinguishing feature of our army is the fact that personified in it are the new social relations which were formed in Soviet society. The entire life of the Armed Forces and the entire system of interrelations in them are based on the principles of socialism.

The Soviet Armed Forces are truly popular armed forces. In striving to defame our army, the apologists of imperialism call it a "caste" army and try to ascribe to it features which are inherent in a bourgeois army. This fiction is refuted by life and facts. The personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces reflect completely the social structure of our society. More than 56 percent of the men on active service worked in industry, in transportation, and on construction sites prior to the army, about 30 percent in agriculture, more than 13 percent were employees and students, and so forth. The officer personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces are also inseparably linked with the people. Among the junior officers, workers and employees by birth comprise 82.5 percent and kolkhoz farmers--17.5 percent. Among them are sons of almost all the country's nationalities.

Soviet servicemen are representatives of friendly worker classes and of all social groups of a developed socialist society. They are united by the common

nature of socio-class interests, a scientific-materialistic world outlook, and communist morality. The high level of our servicemen's social maturity is shown by the fact that 90 percent of the officers, warrant officers, sergeants, petty officers, soldiers, and seamen are communists and Komsomols.

The solution of the national problem in the USSR led to where the socio-class solidarity of the Armed Forces personnel was supplemented by fraternal friendship within the multinational troop collectives. The entire tenor of Armed Forces life is permeated by a spirit of internationalism. We can name many subunits in which the sons of 15-20 nationalities are serving. The Russian language has become the actual language of inter-nation intercourse and the collaboration of all Soviet peoples.

Our Armed Forces, the Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, stresses, is the beloved offspring of the multinational Soviet people--a new social and historic community of people. Serving in a single formation are representatives of all classes and social groups and of all nations and nationalities of our great motherland which have been closely welded into an indestructible union. Each Armed Forces collective--from the subunit, unit, and ship to the Armed Forces as a whole--is an harmonious combat family in which the men are brought up in a spirit of brotherhood, solidarity, respect, and mutual assistance (see Ustinov, D. F., "Izbrannyye rechi i stat'y" [Selected Speeches and Articles], 1979, p 35).

Internationalism is internally inherent in the Soviet Army and is its glorious tradition. Even now, this tradition determines the political consciousness and social behavior of our servicemen. The Great Patriotic War provided a great number of examples of this. We are proud of our combat comrades who are bravely accomplishing their international and patriotic duty on the soil of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

To a decisive degree, the high combat capability of the Soviet Armed Forces depends on the effectiveness of soldierly labor which, at the same time, steps forth as an objective factor of great indoctrinal influence. The entire tenor of Armed Services life furthers the implementation of the Lenin behest that from their young years Soviet people should be molded in conscientious and disciplined labor. In a socialist army the goal of soldierly labor is exceptionally noble, and this means that the thoughts and aspirations of the men for the attainment of these goals are of high moral standards. The Soviet constitution defines military service as the honorable duty of Soviet citizens, and the defense of the socialist fatherland--as the sacred duty of each of us.

This high social significance of the Soviet servicemen's soldierly labor also determines its great indoctrinal capabilities. Service in the Armed Forces, which is connected with the strict regulation of all actions, with the overcoming of many difficulties, and with the necessity for the constant subordination of each serviceman's efforts to common goals, actively molds in the men courage, a state of discipline, persistence, endurance, and initiative.

The revolution in military affairs changed significantly the content of soldierly labor. The volume and intensity of the men's intellectual and physical activity

increased with an acute shortage of time and the expenditure of spiritual strength and mental energy grew. The specialization of labor is becoming ever greater and the number of military professions is increasing. There are now about 2,000 of them (about 160 in World War II). All this, naturally, imposes high demands on the quality of the men's labor and intensification of the process of their training and indoctrination.

The army accomplishes an important role in the physical tempering of the youth, without which it is difficult to imagine a reliable defender of the USSR. It improves the health, increases the endurance of the men, and generates the ability to endure burdens and privations which are inevitable in contemporary battle staunchly.

The steady accomplishment of the physical training standards and its purposeful nature are the basis for molding in each soldier and seaman lofty combat qualities and the ability to operate for a long time under extreme conditions.

The well-known Soviet teacher, A. S. Makarenko, said: "Communist will, communist courage, and communist purposefulness cannot be instilled without special exercises in the collective." And further: "One cannot bring up a courageous man if he is not placed under those conditions where he could display courage...."

In adding to the glory of the frontline heroes, the men of the 80's are displaying bravery, courage, and loyalty to the oath in guarding the state border, standing combat alert and guard service, mastering combat equipment and missile launches, and on field exercises, on flights, and on long naval cruises. The servicemen are accomplishing noble deeds rescuing people in accidents and natural disasters. Here are several examples.

A dangerous situation was created when preparing a missile. Engineer-Lieutenant V. Basov gave the order for the immediate evacuation of the personnel from the zone and he himself, disregarding the danger to his life, began to eliminate the trouble. He died at his post, but he eliminated the malfunction. For heroism and self-sacrifice in the performance of military duty, V. Basov was awarded the Order of the Red Star posthumously.

On exercises, a company stormed a mountain peak along the steep slope of a glacier. Suddenly the company commander, having slipped, dropped the ice pick, fell, and rolled downward toward the precipice. Junior Sergeant A. Sapraliyev rushed to his assistance. Tearing his clothing and skinning his hands against the glacier, at the edge of the precipice he managed to grab the officer by the belt and catch on to the ice crust with an ice pick.

A platoon leader, Guards Lieutenant V. Dudko, felt trouble at once, as soon as his parachute deployed. One of the paratroopers was carried by a strong air current into the canopy. The shroud lines began to twist and the canopies to collapse. An attempt to separate the parachutes was unsuccessful. Falling toward Dudko's shroud lines, Guards Private First Class Kuvychkin began to tumble downward. Then, grabbing several shrouds of his parachute with one hand, the officer pulled the ring of his reserve chute. They landed on the same canopy in the deep snow. Thus, not losing his head in the difficult situation, the resolute young officer saved himself and the soldier.

Loyalty to duty is a question of the honor and dignity of the Soviet serviceman. It is a mighty moral force which stimulates him to give his knowledge and energy to selfless soldierly labor and which is the highest valor of the motherland's defender.

Local party and Soviet organs, public organizations, and labor collectives play a large role in the indoctrination of the men.

The propagandizing of the Lenin ideas on the defense of the socialist fatherland, military knowledge, and the people's exploit in the Great Patriotic War and the explanation of the CPSU's role in the leadership of the Armed Forces occupy an important place in the activity of the Znaniye [Knowledge] Society. One out of every three draftees comes to the army having one of the many military-theoretical specialties obtained in DOSAAF study groups and schools. The workers of cities and rayons give the youths a ceremonious send-off to military service: they receive warm parting words from local leaders, production leaders, and war veterans. Frequently, sacred relics are carried out to these ceremonies--banners of famous units and ships. The labor collectives give an order to the future servicemen to stand vigilant guard over the peaceful, creative life of our people and their allies and to preserve and add to the combat traditions of their fathers and grandfathers. Acceptances of expert servicemen in the Komsomol Central Committee have become traditional. Thousands of the best representatives of all the combat arms are awarded honorable decorations of the Komsomol Central Committee each year. Komsomol organizations of a number of union republics, krays, and oblasts have firm patron ties with the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. The Komsomol participates actively in the staffing of military schools, sending the most worthy to them. Workers of cities and rayons and production collectives maintain a close tie with the troop units in which their fellow-towners and comrades at work are serving: delegations, lecturers, and amateur arts collectives are exchanged and correspondence is conducted. The successes of the workers inspire the men to the exemplary performance of their service duties.

The veterans of the war and labor are making a tremendous contribution to the indoctrination of the men. "...People of inexhaustible energy and lofty moral qualities, people of loyal service to the motherland and the party,"--this is what Comrade Yu. V. Andropov said about the veterans at a meeting with them in the CPSU Central Committee. Commanders, political organs, and party organizations are striving to utilize in full measure the combat, political, and moral experience, wealth of knowledge, and vivid life of the veterans--the living chronicle of the Armed Forces' heroic history--to indoctrinate the personnel in the glorious revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions of the party, the people, and the army and in the spirit of loyalty to the Lenin ideals and devotion to the socialist motherland and the cause of the Communist Party.

The veterans help the youth of the Armed Forces to get to know better the path travelled by the country and its Armed Forces and to be perceptibly aware of the living connection of the times. They are always desired guests in the unit or on the ship. Their impassioned word filled with revolutionary passion, the romance of a soldierly exploit, and their example of selfless service to the people and the party invariably call on the young servicemen to add to the combat glory of the motherland's defenders and to accomplish their military duty with honor and dignity.

Great possibilities for the expansion of military-patriotic work are opening up in connection with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet servicemen's remarkable victories in the Great Patriotic War. The unfading pages of the chronicle of the unparalleled exploit by our people and the army and of the courage and mass heroism of the Soviet people at the front and in the rear are a striking illustration of the strength and invincibility of the socialist state.

The combat life and soldierly labor of the men are unthinkable without such a powerful weapon as the works of literature and art. "Both song and poem--they are the bomb and banner, and the voice of the singer lifts the class," wrote Vladimir Mayakovskiy. Literature of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars and of today's heroes of the Soviet Armed Forces which is rich and beloved by the people is a unique epopee of ardent love for the motherland, boundless devotion to socialism, and heroism in battles against its enemies. But this subject is far from exhausted. It is also worthy of the more fixed attention of venerable famous and talented young figures of literature and art.

The Soviet Armed Forces are not only a school of combat skill. Military service also gives the youths knowledge and professions which are applicable under civilian conditions. The men are working selflessly on the most difficult sections of the Baykal-Amur Mainline Railway, erecting many cultural and domestic services installations, and helping in the harvesting of the crops. Units and ships are patrons of thousands of schools, vocational and technical schools, and training centers for preconscription military training. Many thousands of Komsomol servicemen are leading military-technical study groups and physical culture sections in schools and many are participating in the organization and conduct of the "Orlenok" and "Zarnitsa" military-sports games for the schoolboys and work as Young Pioneer leaders.

Young people who have served in the Armed Forces are working outstandingly. They are examples of lofty civic virtue at construction sites and plants, in kolkhozes, and in higher educational institutions.

The army enriches the spiritual aspect of the youths, gives it new facets, and polishes their character. They return home spiritually and physically strengthened and capable of working fruitfully, supplement knowledge purposefully, and participate actively in social-political life. The prestige of the Soviet Army as a school for the indoctrination of the youth is very high among the people.

"I remember my army service with gratitude," writes the distinguished builder, Hero of Socialist Labor N. Zlobin. "It became a good school for me just as for all those who stood in the combat, soldierly formation. A school of self-control and discipline, ideological steadfastness, and moral tempering." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA often publishes such letters. Former servicemen, noting with gratitude that the army taught them much, express warm words about the officers who helped them to determine their place correctly not only in the combat formation, but also in life in general.

Our motherland's adherence to the Leninist policy of peace was again confirmed in the decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet, "On the international situation and the foreign policy of the Soviet state," which was adopted on 29 December 1983.

Expressing concern for the sharp aggravation of the situation in the world caused by the growth of militarism and aggressiveness of the imperialist forces, and first of all of the United States, the highest organ of Soviet authority wholly supported and approved the practical steps and measures of the CPSU and the government in strengthening the defensive capability of the USSR and ensuring the security of the Soviet people and their allies.

Standing guard over the achievements of socialism and maintaining indefatigable vigilance, the men of our Armed Forces are greeting the national holiday--Soviet Army and Navy Day--with new achievements in combat and political training.

At the end of last year the personnel of the Proskurovskiy Motorized Rifle Regiment (commander--Major A. Stolyarov), a missile unit (commander--Lieutenant Colonel A. Pavlov), the Guards Smolensk Air Defense Forces Missile Regiment (commander--Guards Lieutenant Colonel V. Nekhayev), a Guards fighter air regiment (commander--Guards Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Temnikov), and the nuclear missile cruiser "Kirov" (commander--Captain 1st Rank A. Koval'chuk) came forth with the call to initiate socialist competition in the 1984 training year for further combat improvement and a worthy greeting for the 40th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War. The initiative of the initiators of this patriotic movement under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!", found a broad response among the troops and in the fleets. In strained training and under conditions as close as possible to those of combat, the men are tirelessly improving field, air, and sea training and are diligently mastering weapons, equipment, and the skills for the expert conduct of contemporary war.

Commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations are using widely the indoctrinal force of competition to rally the military collectives, create in them an atmosphere of high activity and discipline, friendship, and combat comradeship, and raise in every possible way the vanguard role of the communists and Komsomols.

In the appeal of one of the initiators of the competition--the crew of the nuclear missile cruiser "Kirov"--to the personnel of the Navy it says: "We see our sacred duty in making a significant contribution to ensuring the reliable defense of socialism. We clearly realize that the military-political situation which has become sharply aggravated recently and the militarism and extreme adventurism in the policy and actions of the United States and the other NATO countries require of us the highest vigilance and constant readiness for the accomplishment of any order of the Soviet fatherland.... Our crew sees as its most important mission being worthy continuers of the ship's heroic traditions, keeping dressed on the Banner of Victory, and keeping combat training at the level of contemporary requirements of the Communist Party."

These words express the thoughts and feelings of all the men of the Soviet Armed Forces.

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ARMED FORCES

CONTRASTING APPROACHES TO COMPETITION MEAN CONTRASTING RESULTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col A. Yakimov, tank regiment commander: "At an Intermediate Line"]

[Text] The commander's heart could not but be touched by what he saw. Rushing out from behind a hill, the tanks deployed into an extended line in organized fashion and rushed forward in their attack. The targets had barely appeared when flames flashed from the gun barrels.

The right-flank company commanded by Senior Lieutenant I. Kozlov acted with especially good coordination and efficiency. Watching it, I recalled a time when the company commander noted the following as he summarized the results of the socialist competition:

"Senior Lieutenant Gapoka's platoon was 7 seconds late in deploying. It did deploy within regulation time, of course, but is that adequate in an attack? Set your sights higher!"

These words induced a good feeling within me at that time. The company commander was not satisfied with present achievements: This means that even higher results would be achieved later on.

After summarizing the results, Senior Lieutenant A. Gapoka analyzed the actions of his subordinates once again in considerable detail. Then he pointed out the specific shortcomings, he determined the ways of correcting them, and he organized individual work with those who were falling behind. And now, in a live fire tactical exercise, the platoon under his command made a substantial contribution to the success of the company and the battalion.

This month is the half-way point in the winter training period. We have traveled half way to the targets stated in our socialist pledges. And these are difficult targets: By the end of the training year the regiment must become an outstanding unit. It is an inspiring goal. But there is something else that is true as well: It is not enough to just pose a high goal. We must also know how to reach it. After all, there are many difficulties along the way. One of the most important preconditions of reaching a goal, in my opinion, is the ability to realistically evaluate what has been achieved, without exaggerating or

belittling it. This approach, as experience showed, protects us from mistakes, from the temptation to accept as reality that which is desired, and it permits us to distinctly see what has been done, and what has not. And as a regiment commander, I am always pleased when officers try to measure their achievements against the end goal. This behavior is supported by the active pulse of competition.

But unfortunately, there are also effects of a different nature in the life of the regiment as well. Not that long ago as an example, the company commanded by Captain V. Vlasov was undergoing a night firing exercise. Problems began making themselves known in the first minutes of the lesson. As a result about 2 hours of training time were wasted.

Organization and order are a key issue in our regiment. Every interruption in the training process not only results in losses in occupational proficiency but also causes a moral loss. The following incident comes to mind in this connection. During a recent lesson only one crew of this company earned a high grade; the others were satisfied with mediocre results. How did the subunit officers react to this? Essentially in no way in particular.

How does this happen? It would seem that all the people accept their socialist pledges unanimously, and the conditions for fulfilling them are the same. And yet when we look at their training level, we suddenly find a contrast of the sort described above. I think that the main problem lies in the attitude toward work.

An example of continual concern for raising the effectiveness of every lesson can be found among officers of the battalion commanded by Captain V. Klunnikov. On one occasion driver-mechanic Private T. Tsyba and gunner Private A. Kulik won a competition among specialists based on the month's results. Company commander Senior Lieutenant Kozlov immediately organized an exchange of experience with the leading soldiers. He encouraged the active Komsomol members to take part in this effort. And now the signature of mature masters is noticeable in the combat work of all the company's soldiers.

Things are different in the company commanded by Captain Vlasov. Sometimes when summarizing competition results he does not even announce the names of the leading and lagging soldiers. Usually the contribution made by people to the common effort is evaluated wholesale, so to speak: Some one crew is ahead, and some other is behind. Clearly such an impersonal approach cannot stimulate the energy of the soldiers or promote maintenance of an atmosphere of rivalry in the subunit.

A contrast can also be discerned in the approach taken by the competition organizers to the problems of intensifying the training process. Here are two examples.

The company commanded by Senior Lieutenant Kozlov was undergoing a tank firing exercise. The commander had a stopwatch in his hand. Nothing out of the ordinary about that. But the senior lieutenant was using the stopwatch in a somewhat unusual way. He was recording not only the standard time itself, but also

the amount of time spent to exchange crews and to report to commanders. He is trying to reduce this time as well. In each concrete case just a few seconds are at stake, but in sum total the time saving is substantial. This time can then be used to train those who fall behind some more. That is the procedure used by Senior Lieutenant Kozlov. And this is why there are no unanalyzed issues in the company, and no standards that have not been met. Everything here is done in time.

But what about the neighbors? The officers of the company commanded by Captain Vlasov did not even show an interest in such "minor matters" during their firing exercise. Furthermore they did not make an effort to see that their subordinates were fulfilling the standards, and they did not analyze their mistakes.

Two subunits, two approaches to the work. There is something here to think about, and not only for the officers I mentioned above. A thorough discussion was recently held on this topic in our unit and an expanded meeting of the party committee with the participation of the regiment's administrative officers, the battalion commanders and their deputies and the secretaries of the subunit party organizations. The discussion turned to the ways for eliminating such contrasts in the training of the subunits as quickly as possible and making competition more effective. A decision was made to intensify control over the quality of commander lessons conducted in the subunits, and to arm the officers with unified teaching techniques, arrived at on the basis of the experience of the competition leaders.

We also took a closer look at other aspects of the competition. In particular we analyzed the contribution made to the common cause by the chiefs of the branches of troops and services. The facts show that they could do much more to promote the regiment's fulfillment of its pledges by becoming more active and by showing greater concern for the state of affairs in their areas. As an example can we be certain of the savings in electric power which we set as our goal in our pledges if the chiefs directly responsible for this do not themselves have accurate information on power consumption? Or consider another point. We planned to grow a sizeable amount of vegetables through our own effort--20 kilograms per serviceman. But repairs on the hothouse are taking a long time. Will we be able to insure complete and high quality fulfillment of this pledge? This is not certain at the moment.

On the whole the regiment's personnel are working towards the day of the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet with good results. But there are still many unsolved problems. And it is very important to check back over the path we have traveled, to critically evaluate our work at this intermediate line in winter combat training and to take steps to correct shortcomings. All of this will depend on how well we will be able to get the personnel to fight for high end results every day.

11004
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ARMED FORCES

WARSAW PACT EXERCISE 'DRUZHBA-84' SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Lt. Col V. Kir'yazov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Shoulder to Shoulder"]

[Text] An exercise code-named "Druzhba-84," which was conducted from late February through early March in the west and northwest of the Polish People's Republic, has come to an end. Units and subunits of the Polish and Soviet armies and the GDR's National People's Army took part in it. The exercise promoted further improvement of troop skills, reinforcement of the combat fraternity of the friendly armies, expansion of mutual cooperation and exchange of experience in party-political work.

The gunners were the first to subject the "enemy" defenses to all the power of their fire. Their strike was precise. The battery commanded by Specialist 1st Class Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Kozlov distinguished itself especially.

Before the thunder of the artillery died down, tankmen of the Orsha Guards Tank Regiment rushed into the attack. They were led into combat by Guards Captain V. Chumak. Motorized riflemen of a company commanded by Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Chukhray rode atop the tank armor. Taking cover behind the turrets of the menacing vehicles, they subjected the enemy to direct fire not only from assault rifles and machineguns but also hand-held antitank rocket launchers. The "enemy" was unable to withstand their coordinated onslaught.

Nor was he able to wrest the initiative from the attackers by means of counter-attacks. When one of the flanks of the Orsha regiment was threatened by a counterattack, Polish tankmen were committed to combat. Companies under the command of Lieutenant S. Sled'zh and Second Lieutenant A. Zhaberek slowed down the "enemy's" advance, thus providing the Soviet tankmen a possibility for maneuvering to reinforce the threatened flank. The "enemy" hastily rolled back beyond a wide water obstacle. A bridgehead had to be captured as quickly as possible there.

A tank platoon under the command of Lieutenant A. Zaytsev broke through to the water's edge. The young officer confidently led the platoon to the opposite bank across the bottom of the river. The tanks emerged from beneath the water

within seconds of the start of an attack by a tactical airborne force.

Incidentally, these were the same motorized riflemen that had recently ridden on the tanks.

Company deputy commander for political affairs Guards Lieutenant M. Tsymbal handed battle leaflets to the agitators before the helicopters took to the air. In the air they were passed around, and the Guards soldiers read the following: "We are traveling over ground upon which 39 years ago soldiers of our Orsha regiment committed mass heroism while crossing this river. It is our duty to act in such a way as to be worthy of the glory of the former soldiers of our regiment."

The landing pad was soon at hand. The motorized riflemen quickly left the helicopters. A coordinated attack by the tactical airborne force and the tank-men that had come up to shore from the bottom of the river was graced with success. The bridgehead was captured.

Pontoneers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Olyushin began their assault of the water obstacle after the forward subunits. The banks were soon joined together by a bridge of steel. It was erected in less than the standard time.

Soldiers in subunits of the GDR National People's Army were the first to test the soundness of the crossing. They were led by Major M. Messerle, a graduate of the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze. Having crossed to the other bank, they entered into combat on the move. They were covered by fire from gunners commanded by lieutenant colonels G. Shirmayster and B. Rogel'.

High speed and close coordination among the attackers brought them success. Thus the proficiency and the preparedness of the soldiers of fraternal armies to defend the accomplishments of socialism were manifested with new force in the training exercise.

The exercise area was visited by General of Armored Troops F. Sivitskiy, a candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party and Polish minister of national defense. Together with Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel General Yu. Zarudin, the commander of the Northern Group of Forces and a participant of the combat for the liberation of Poland, and with Lieutenant General N. Lushnichenko, a member of the Military Council and chief of the group's political directorate, who also fought the Germans on Polish territory, Sivitskiy talked with the young defenders of the borders of socialism and presented decorations to the soldiers who distinguished themselves the most.

Exercise "Druzhba-84" ended with a review of the troops that had participated in it.

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ARMED FORCES

INATTENTION TO DETAIL CAUSES BUREAUCRATIC FOUL-UPS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 4

[Article by Col A. Drovosekov: "With a Single Stroke of a Pen"]

[Text] It has long been noted that some people who like paperwork can create something which no other person could ever intentionally think up. Let me recall at least the well known Lieutenant Kije. According to the writer, Yuriy Tynyanov, the nonexistent lieutenant came into the world and wound up on the rolls of a regiment exclusively owing to the irresponsibility of a clerk.

Current reality shows us that even in our days intricate cases of bungling are encountered in personnel files, inasmuch as certain chiefs sign papers without reading or understanding what they are signing. I would like to recall in this connection some comrades from the medical service of the Central Asian Military District, to which in November 1983 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA sent a letter it received from Citizen P. Yevstaf'yeva requesting a medical examination for her son.

Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service M. Bychkov was ordered to take care of Yevstaf'yeva's request. Without delay he drew up the necessary form and sent it to the district military hospital and to the commander of the unit in which military builder Private Yevstaf'yev is serving.

The document was clear, but there was a concealed defect in it: The name "Yevstegneyev, P. D." was written instead of "Yevstaf'yev, A. P.". However, the unit commander knew that the form meant Yevstaf'yev. He knew this, but he postponed fulfilling the order to send the soldier to the hospital for examination until his recovery: Yevstaf'yev was in the medical unit undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile time passed, and someone from the district medical service called the district hospital to ask how Yevstegneyev's examination was going. But inasmuch as Yevstegneyev had been created exactly in the image and likeness of Lieutenant Kije, by a single stroke of the pen, it was not revealed until after extensive enquiries that it was Yevstaf'yev they were looking for. And they found him! Not the soldier himself, of course, but just the clues of his

previous stay in the hospital--a paper ordering his discharge from it. The necessary document was drawn up on its basis, and it was sent to the district medical service bearing the signature of Colonel of Medical Service A. Tkachuk. On receiving it, Comrade Bychkov, whom we already met, sat down to compose a reply to the petitioner and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Once again, however, Comrade Bychkov's pen succumbed to witchcraft: For some reason he addressed the reply not to Yevstaf'yeva, P. D., but to Yevstegneyeva, P. D. The reply read:

"I report that Private Yevstaf'yev, S. B. was undergoing inpatient treatment in the optical department of the district military hospital from 9 August to 21 September 1983....

"On 5 September 1983 he was passed by the military medical commission....

"Central Asian Military District Acting Chief of Medical Service, Colonel of Medical Service V. Shchipanov."

Praskov'ya Dmitriyevna read the reply once, and she read it again, and she concluded that this reply should have gone to Yevstegneyeva, P. D.: First, her son's initials were A. P., and not S. B., and second, her son was not in the hospital in August. She knew that for sure. Third, there was nothing wrong with his eyes. This meant that the letter was talking about some other Yevstaf'yev. But what about her son?

"I'll go myself. It's not close, but I'll go anyway," Praskov'ya Dmitriyevna decided, and she got a ticket on the Sumy--Alma-Ata line.

Objectivity requires me to say that there was absolutely no reason for her to go. By this time her son had already undergone his examination. The attitude displayed toward him was the most attentive--the same a physician would display toward any person who ends up in the hospital. But we must also understand the anxiety in a mother's heart.

"We apologized to Praskov'ya Dmitriyevna," Comrade Shchipanov. "She has no complaints. Her son passed the medical examination. Please consider that we have determined who was to blame for the stupid bungling, and who was too lazy to determine who was who."

The intention was clear. They apologized, they took steps, and they made it clear that Yevstaf'yev, S. B. was not Yevstaf'yev, A. P., and so it may seem that there is no need to publicize the matter.

It goes without saying that publicizing such an incident is not a very pleasant thing. But we must. For the edification of others. After all, comrades Shchipanov and Tkachuk are not the only ones that sign official papers. Many make mistakes like they did. And the number of people that fill out such forms is even greater. It would be especially useful to recall to them that their work is very important, as we are persuaded almost every day. As we all know, once something is down in writing, you can't take it back.

The validity of this notion was experienced in its full strength by Colonel (Retired) D. Anashkin. He spent 4 years applying to various levels of authority just to bring into correspondence with labor law a notation made in his workbook by S. Velikanova, an inspector with the personnel department of a DOSAAF aircraft repair plant at the request of her former chief, A. Ignatov. Anashkin's request could have been satisfied in just a few minutes, had the plant chief, I. Suslov, been one of those people who knows how to admit his mistakes. After all, the law lays responsibility for organizing the work of maintaining workbooks on the enterprise director.

In contrast to Comrade Anashkin, Senior Lieutenant N. Kostrikov did not know whom to make his appeal to, and therefore he went to the reception room of the editor's office, and among other questions, he asked the following: "Can an officer be awarded two medals 'For Irreproachable Service,' 3d Degree?"

"They can't! That's against regulations!" the reception room workers all agreed. Then, thinking it over a little, they said in a hushed voice:

"Though of course, you know, anything can happen."

"That's right," confirmed the senior lieutenant, laying two certificates on the desk. One stated that he had been awarded the medal "For Irreproachable Service," 3d Degree on 13 January 1980, and the other stated that he had been awarded the same medal on 14 January 1981.

It was quite clear why this became possible: Some staff workers made a mistake. All that was left to do was to find out why the mistake had not been corrected. Could it be that Kostrikov kept silent about it?

"Both medals were given to me by Lieutenant Colonel Rushinskiy, who was the unit commander at that time. I told him about the second medal. He promised to sort things out, but soon after, we were posted to different garrisons. It was just forgetfulness."

Incidentally, some administrators suffer not only from forgetfulness but also from the absence of elementary vigilance, as is evidenced by an incident that has its origins back in November 1966. It was precisely then that the Tsentral'nyy Rayon Military Commissariat of Omsk recommended a decoration for a former gun commander V. Kondrat'yev on the basis of a certificate he presented stating that he had received a serious wound, and on the basis of his own story of his heroism in combat with the fascists. The certificate was given just a quick glance, the archives were not checked out, and Kondrat'yev received the decoration.

We may have heard nothing more about this "hero and disabled war veteran," had he not attempted to obtain a personal pension. Out of necessity, on the way toward this goal he was interviewed by Colonel (Retired) V. Bogdanov, a worker of the Main Personnel Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense and a war veteran. Kondrat'yev's documents and his story raised Vasiliy Ivanovich's suspicions. A careful check, which did not take much time, revealed irrefutably

that Kondrat'yev was a fraud. He spent just a little more than 2 months at the front, and he never did anything heroic. The wound certificate was forged: He erased the real last name, first name and patronymical and substituted his own. He had never been a gun commander, and he never knocked out any fascist tanks. Last week instructions to implement the appropriate measures against this "war hero," created once again by the stroke of a pen, were sent to the military commissariat in the city of Bendery, where Kondrat'yev is now residing, and to the headquarters of the Odessa Military District.

As we can see, people permitted to draw up original documents and act upon incoming documents have many things in their power. They can force a person to run in circles and lose sleep chasing from one end of the country to the other groundlessly in regard to a problem that could easily be solved locally, and they can confuse a simple matter with unending red tape. It would be difficult to list all of the things that can be generated by irresponsibility and an unthinking, bureaucratic attitude toward the work. This is why I think that it would be correct to always subject such an attitude to strict party punishment.

11004
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ARMED FORCES

ACTIVITIES OF PEOPLE'S CONTROL GROUP DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Major A. Yurchuk, chairman of the unit's People's Control Group:
"Inevitability--The People's Control Group in Action"]

[Text] Question and answer sessions have become traditional in our unit. The commander, his deputies and commanders of the branches and services come to the sessions with the soldiers. As the chairman of the People's Control Group, I try not to miss a single arrangement of this kind. I listen attentively to the remarks which the soldiers express.

For example, at a question and answer session which was being conducted for family members of military service personnel, a criticism was expressed regarding the poor operation of the exchange store located at the military post. We took an interest in it. The call we received turned out to be correct. Some goods didn't reach the counters, but were sold at excessive prices far from the unit. We reported to the procurator's office concerning the serious violations permitted by sales personnel G. Dyusembayeva, N. Filimonenko and Z. Zhdanova with the connivance of the head of the trade group L. Ivanova.

This is only one case from the daily activities of our unit's People's Control Group. It's possible to cite others too. Patrols work with an understanding of the importance of the matter with which they have been entrusted and they render effective assistance to the commander in raising combat readiness and strengthening discipline.

Of course, it's possible to get lost in the small details and some kind of formal "arrangements." But from the very beginning we firmly established for ourselves that our basic concern is raising combat readiness. And that's why matters of the training and upbringing process, improvement of the training and material base, and the storage and care of arms and combat equipment are the main direction in our activities. For example, on the instructions of the political department patrols under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel A. Tolmachev inspected the technical readiness of motor transport facilities for forthcoming tactical exercises. Serious complaints among those inspecting appeared against Captain V. Velichko, chief of the motor vehicle service. In accordance with his orders, the repair of motor vehicles leaving on a trip took a long time by virtue of using components which were removed from long storage equipment.

All this was reported to the unit commander. Comrades condemned communist Velichko's behavior on principle at a party meeting of the administration. The shortcomings were eliminated. Equipment repair was put in good order. Strict supervision was imposed for servicing and taking care of it.

Classrooms for the engineering and technical training of soldiers were reconstructed and improved, and the unit's gymnasium was put in order and provided with the necessary sports equipment with the active participation of the people's controllers.

The people who are participating in it are providing for the effectiveness of supervision and its energetic and pressing nature. That's why the selection of people's controllers acquires special significance. And people who are especially persistent, principled and industrious are needed in this sector of public work. At times one has to enter into a conflict and "sharpen the corners," and here one should not be afraid to spoil relations and should be firm until the end.

And I would say the inevitability of both the supervision itself and measures resulting from the analysis performed still have enormous educational importance. Perhaps this is a particularly psychologically and morally important point. Of course, it's always an important one--both from the standpoint of the commander's activities and in conformity with party work. But in the present case, the question concerns the People's Control Group and in this connection I would like to direct one's attention to our problems. If the people's controllers through their influence envelop the various aspects of the collective's life, they immediately notice all the negative manifestations, react sharply to this, and then, believe me, a reliable barrier will be raised for "those who wish" to deviate from regulations, laws and our moral norms.

A billeting and maintenance service warehouse was subjected to a sudden inspection. A considerable number of violations was revealed on the part of T. Glushko, a civilian employee of the Soviet army who was responsible for storing the materials. When the people's controllers made a demand of her, then Lieutenant Colonel S. Gruzdev came forward as her defender. He tried his best to reject the criticism about her, accused the controllers of a biased attitude towards the warehouseman and interfered with carrying through the inspection which was begun. It's clear that many people followed the outcome of the "duel" and the question here already assumes a moral meaning: now tell me, does right or wrong prevail?

The controllers didn't retreat. The political department made a principled evaluation of the cases revealed by us. The party commission attached to the political department severely punished Lieutenant Colonel Gruzdev. Glushko was relieved of her position.

It makes me happy that fellow employees also treat the group with great confidence as a whole, and each patrol member taken separately. This confidence has come because any call which we receive is subjected to an immediate and thorough check. And it's known that the authority of the patrols depends precisely on how they react to the calls from the locations and whether they take the necessary measures on them.

The results of our work are widely talked about at personnel meetings, issues of bulletins from the People's Control Group and in programs of the local radio station.

It happens also that erroneous statements are received at the group. Something "became evident" to a person and somewhere he heard inaccurate information. We also inform everyone about things of this kind. In specific cases we show that the rumors are unfounded. For example, that was the case when the people's controllers learned about red tape which supposedly was tolerated in considering a letter from a soldier's mother to one of the officers.

We checked the work on the complaints and the statements. It turned out that they were considered by officials during the established time limits and specific measures were taken in all cases. It was just not possible to give a positive answer right that minute to the request from the soldier's mother. We informed her of this and named a deadline when her request will be fulfilled. That was also done later.

I informed everyone about this at the unit's personnel meeting. And I did so because, according to my deep conviction, publicity in our work is the basis of success. It's necessary so that people may see that a decisive struggle with shortcomings is in progress. And this is profoundly impressed upon their consciousness and senses.

Of course, we also have unresolved problems. For example, we must participate more actively in propagandizing progressive methods and we must raise the quality of agitation and propaganda measures on matters of economy and thrift.

As is well known, the real value of supervision is not only to reveal shortcomings, but to improve work, prevent a violation and to eliminate the prerequisites for it.

Somehow a member of our group Warrant Officer R. Konyk noticed that several soldiers in their second year of service in one of our subunits [podrazdeleniye] were wearing what is called brand-new uniform articles which recently were distributed to new draftees. On the very same day we visited the storeroom of this subunit and inquired about how property is kept. And we saw an unsightly scene. The unit's senior noncommissioned officer Warrant Officer S. Zaykov neglected his accounting duties and turned a blind eye to the actions of those negligent soldiers who, while wearing out their own things, began to use somebody else's.

We reported our observations to the commander. Soon afterwards a senior noncommissioned officers meeting was called at which I talked about the results of the inspection. But this didn't complete the matter. By decision of the commander, demonstration studies were conducted in the best company on organizing the custody of property and personal belongings of sergeants and soldiers. It turned out to be useful both for Zaykov and for other senior noncommissioned officers.

Each of the members of our group is striving to function in a more energetic and pressing manner. There's also the worthy contribution of the people's controllers in the fact that, according to the results of the last training year, our unit was declared the best among the kindred units of the military district and also the fact that things right now are proceeding well in the collective.

9889

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ARMED FORCES

SINCERE CONCERN FOR COMPETITION AIDS SUCCESS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Col Yu. Mikhaylenko: "Not for the Sake of Form"]

[Text] The subunit commanded by Officer B. Kuks failed to completely fulfill its socialist pledges according to the results of the past training year, and it received an overall unsatisfactory grade. No, this was not that much of a surprise to the officers of the formation's political department and staff. They had to visit the subunit on several occasions, and just about every trip elicited concern for the state of affairs. They were concerned primarily for the way training, indoctrination and the competition were organized--precisely those things which are the first to insure success. Instead of a desire to fight for pledge fulfillment, instead of resourceful labor typical of purposeful people, the officers of the political department and staff often encountered cases of passiveness and indifference here.

The shortcomings were frequently pointed out to the subunit commander, and serious suggestions were made, but as we can see, the commander was in no hurry to arrive at any conclusions. Given all that, his immediate supervisors lieutenant colonels Yu. Arzamastsev and A. Ragozin understood that B. Kuks had a reputation for being a competent teacher and indoctrinator, and a master of fire and tactics. This opinion was based on the fact that the officer had undergone rather substantial professional training, and that he could do the work of many specialists brilliantly. But are these merits alone enough? As we can see, this question was never entertained by the supervisors of Officer Kuks. What he did lack was a sense of responsibility for his assigned work. And primarily responsibility for fulfillment of the socialist pledges adopted by the personnel.

An active effort to adopt pledges was made in the subunit before the start of the training year. The speeches, appeals and promises were eloquent. But all of the concern for organizing the competition essentially ended with this. The pledges were rarely recalled when results were summarized and when the personnel met, and very little was done for practical purposes to insure their fulfillment.

A formal approach to organizing competition invariably leads to problems in training and indoctrination. Such is a law that has been confirmed many times by experience. However, we still encounter officers who do not heed this law,

who give competition a secondary role. Unfortunately senior supervisors and staff officers inspecting the state of affairs locally do not always turn attention to this aspect of the official activities of commanders.

Sometimes a unit commander is asked to describe the working and organizational qualities of a particular officer. What is heard in response? Detailed information on the officer's professional training, his capabilities as a teacher, and the competence with which he utilizes the arsenal of indoctrination resources in his work. But what sort of competition organizer is he, precisely how is his creative enquiry manifested, can he insure competitiveness in lessons and training, can he mobilize the people to achieve the highest results? One does not always hear persuasive answers to these questions. The impression is created that certain commanders do not delve deeply into such issues. But is this not one of the reasons for the fact that officers subordinated to them have lost their feeling of responsibility for this most important direction in their official activities--organizing competition? It is quite obvious that a tangible benefit would not be had from competition itself either: It would transform into a formal, passive element having absolutely no noticeable influence on the training and work of the soldiers.

Neglect of this fact has one other negative aspect. Sometimes we also find that when various favorable circumstances come together, a crew or a platoon does manage to enjoy some success for a certain interval of time, even though the commanders are not making full use of the possibilities of competition. Time passes, the officers are promoted, and later on it is revealed that they are not really qualified. One of the reasons for this is that in the hearings on their promotions, no one paid any attention to their ability to organize competition effectively. Consider this in light of the fact that the higher a commander's position and the wider the range of problems within his responsibility, the greater becomes the role played by his ability to creatively organize and mobilize subordinates for successful fulfillment of their tasks.

The example of Captain I. Ibatulov is typical in this connection. Recognized to be a leading officer, he was promoted. The range of his responsibilities widened, and the scale of his tasks increased. It was in the interest of the common cause to insure that all personnel pulled together, and that they worked resourcefully. To mobilize the people for such work, the officer had to be able to organize competition competently. Captain Ibatulov's experience was rather modest in this area, since he tended to underestimate the power of competition previously; unfortunately no one ever pointed this mistake out to him, and he developed the opinion that competition would insure success in assigned work even if left to its own. Life demonstrated the erroneousness of this viewpoint. The subunit gradually slipped down in its ratings. Despite everything Captain Ibatulov tried to do, he was unable to rectify the situation.

Why had senior comrades not corrected officers Kuks and Ibatulov at the proper time? The problem was that these subunits exhibited the outward signs of properly managed competition: Pledges were adopted, displays were set up, and reports were submitted to headquarters. But the deep essence of competition was leached out; it was being conducted for the sake of form only. This could be revealed only through a thorough analysis of the state of affairs locally. But

the inspectors usually lacked the time for this approach; they devoted themselves completely to other problems, also important, but they did not tie them in with the organization of competition, as they should have.

Comrade K. U. Chernenko emphasized in his speech to voters of the Kuybyshev Election District the high requirements the party imposes upon leaders, upon their work style and upon their moral countenance. These requirements pertain fully to military personnel as well. Only that commander or chief who has a developed sense of personal responsibility for assigned work and who manifests initiative and creativity in his work will win high authority.

As we know, responsibility is a moral concept expressing the essence of a person's relationship to assigned work. Any mistakes in this area can mean a significant moral loss in the indoctrination of people. In fact, if a chief lacks a sense of responsibility, he generates passiveness in his subordinates as well. And a person stricken with such a "disease" will also experience a significant decline in the level of other moral qualities. And it is not at all an accident that in subunits where competition is poorly organized the educational role of competition is poorly utilized, discipline is always just limping along, and cases of irregular mutual relationships are encountered. Here, one problem leads to another.

A real struggle to fulfill socialist pledges must begin with thoughtful work having the purpose of instilling a high personal sense of responsibility for success in the common cause and for the end result--that is, for the level of the crew's, subunit's or unit's combat readiness. This is an axiom. This is also the experience of the day-to-day life of the best military collectives, ones which achieve high indicators in competition from 1 year to the next.

Let us consider the outstanding signal subunit commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Parfenov. Here, 82 percent of the soldiers are specialists with high class ratings, and many have mastered several associated specialties. Parfenov himself, incidentally, had recently been a warrant officer, and he is now a candidate master of radio sports. He earned recognition as the best specialist among signal officers in the Air Defense Forces.

The subunit's success is in many ways the product of active, competently organized socialist competition embracing all aspects of the training and work of the personnel. The main thing that helps in organizing such competition is the commander's high responsibility for unconditional, high quality fulfillment of pledges and, to put it simply, the participation of all soldiers without exception, oriented on hard work. Senior Lieutenant Parfenov would not permit the waste of a single minute of training time, he would not ignore a person who is working at only half his strength, and he would not conduct a lesson himself, or permit a warrant officer or sergeant to do so, if the details of the lesson had not been thought out and if competitiveness had not been insured in the lesson. This is what responsibility means. It is a concrete concept manifesting itself in fully determined acts, actions and deeds.

The example and experience of commanders such as Senior Lieutenant Parfenov are worthy of not only praise but also broad dissemination and introduction into practice. The main, most important thing in their experience is that they organize competition not for the sake of form, but exclusively with the objective of benefiting the training and indoctrination of the soldiers and raising their combat readiness. In this, competition acts as a dependable accelerator of the successes of the personnel in training and work.

11004
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ARMED FORCES

FINANCE CHIEF SHOWS FAVORITISM IN PROVIDING HOUSING, JOBS

MOSCOW KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 84 P 4

[Article by Capt 1st Rank (Res) Ye. Korovin: KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "His Own Man"]

[Text] Comrades, be kind enough to put away what you are doing for a moment. There is a more important matter to consider: Lyashenko is going to Sevastopol. We must decide how to greet him--with a brass band or satire. Personally, I have no desire to blow a horn. My preference is for satire.

Before Lyashenko's train gets within earshot of the Crimea, let us take a look at what we have. We have two letters written to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, we have copies of official telegrams, and we have a file containing reports, requests and instructions. There is also a note saying that Lieutenant Colonel of Intendant Service M. D. Lyashenko has been retired into the reserves after serving the appropriate number of years as chief of the financial service of a certain Northern Fleet formation. He is now petitioning to obtain a three-room apartment in Sevastopol, for which purpose he has bestirred or, to put it more tactfully, placed in motion over a dozen high-placed officials.

Let me emphasize in this connection that Lyashenko's name is not listed among persons who have done special service to the state; nor among those credited with irreproachable fulfillment of their official duties. Before being retired into the reserves, he was the subject of a party reprimand "for abuse of official position and dishonesty."

Then why, one might ask, has there been so much of a commotion about Lyashenko's housing needs? Could it be that he lived a hard life without an apartment before his departure for the North, that he huddled in a crowded little room, patiently enduring the temporary inconveniences, and that now they wished to pay him back with special attention for the troubles and deprivations he had endured? But Lyashenko did not live a hard life, and he did not have to endure a tiny little room. He lived in the city of Nikolayev with his wife and two children in a separate two-room apartment, and not long before departing for the Northern Fleet he received a three-room apartment. The truth is that he received this apartment in not an altogether honest way: He announced to the housing

commission that his family consisted of six persons (his father and mother were also supposedly living with him), and when he received a permit for the larger apartment, he persuaded his parents that it would not make any sense for them to move in permanently. He brought them in temporarily, for tactical considerations, and he would continue to love them as before, from a distance.

Since that time Mikhail Dmitrievich has oftened argued that much could be achieved if one is crafty and quick-witted, and if one does not grieve for the loss of conscience.

Having reserved the apartment in Nikolayev for his possible future use, Lyashenko departed for the Northern Fleet. Here as well he found himself a three-room apartment, but it felt crowded to him. He began petitioning for a separate one-room apartment for his unmarried daughter. He got it. And then the time came to work things out for his son: On becoming an officer, by the luck of the draw the latter was posted to his father's place of service. He was still just starting on his way up, and he had not yet managed to decorate his biography with any acts of valor, but a two-room apartment was already awaiting him.

And now let us move from north to south, for the time has come to introduce Vladimir Maksimovich Timoshchenko, chief of the financial service of the Black Sea Fleet. It was he who initiated all the commotion about the modest name of Lyashenko.

Long ago Lyashenko and Timoshchenko had served in the same unit, and they were good friends. Well, there is nothing wrong with that. That is their personal affair. But now V. M. Timoshchenko decided to go a little farther, to make Lyashenko "his own man" in the fleet's financial service, where he got him a job as chief bookkeeper. There were more than enough pretenders to this position, highly experienced people with an education in finances and economics which Lyashenko did not have: All Lyashenko was able to do was to finish a correspondence course in financial science at secondary-school level, and even that he did with difficulty. However, Comrade Timoshchenko rested his decision on Lyashenko anyway, and he had been holding the position vacant for over half a year, awaiting Lyashenko's arrival.

It must be said that Major General of Intendant Service Timoschchenko exhibited a rather clear preference for "his own." Some time earlier he kept a financial specialist's post vacant for half a year for his son-in-law, at that time a senior lieutenant appointed to a major's position. And recently he managed to get the father of his son-in-law a job as the main bookkeeper of the fleet's medical department.

But there was some trouble at first with getting the job for the father, who did not have a higher education either. Another worker, a reserve officer with high qualifications, had been selected for this position in the medical department. But at the last minute a telephone rang: "But what about my man?" They were forced to take the father. They could not ignore the opinion of the fleet's chief of financial service, after all. He knows better who to hire and not to hire, who to consider and how.

At this point let me backtrack a little and inform the reader that Comrade Timoshchenko had already been subjected to criticism in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA for disrespect of commonly accepted rules and regulations. At that time he managed to set up the sale of a passenger car to "his own man" on priority. And just last summer the Committee for Party Control under the CPSU Central Committee severely reprimanded Communist Timoshchenko for an even more improper act--illegal financing of the construction and reequipment of a number of installations, to include a building for the financial service. As we can see, he had many occasions to mend his ways. But he could not help being drawn in to this new unseemly venture.

He was aware--he could not but be aware--that the command of the Northern Fleet had not submitted any petitions concerning an apartment for Lyashenko in Sevastopol. It was known that he had an apartment in Nikolayev, and that he had been retired into the reserves without any special merits. But obviously Vladimir Maksimovich decided that "his man" should receive special privileges. And so he wrote a few letters, all urgent and all for immediate action, and with such eloquence that sometimes it seemed that were Lyashenko not to get an apartment in Sevastopol, and were he not to be given a job as the main book-keeper of the fleet's financial service, the fleet would flounder in a pitiful existence until the end of its days. It should be noted incidentally that these letters were written not only eloquently but also not entirely truthfully. Take as an example the petition written by Timoshchenko's chief, who believed what Timoshchenko was saying. In it Lyashenko is described as "efficient, diligent, exemplary and irreproachable." And this was written not long after he had been given a party reprimand for dishonesty and subjected to criminal proceedings. That same petition states: "...Lieutenant Colonel of Intendant Service Lyashenko...served 16 years continuously in remote regions of the Far North" To put it mildly, this is inaccurate: The number is twice what it should be.

Nonetheless, a telegram was rushed to the Northern Fleet: Workers of the naval engineer service reported that an apartment had been assigned to Lyashenko in Sevastopol.

I read this telegram, the fruit of Comrade Timoshchenko's zeal in behalf of "his own man," and other examples of a more noble nature from his life came to mind. Back at the dawn of his career, when Vladimir Maksimovich was just an ordinary financial specialist, he once discovered that the debit and credit columns were off by a kopeck. He sought this kopeck with inspiration and self-sacrifice, sparing neither effort nor time, and he was very proud when he managed to find it. At that time he validly felt that this was an important thing to do, something that would benefit the state. Whatever happened to this pride, this good satellite of the financial worker? Could it really be that Comrade Timoshchenko never conceived that in the final analysis apartments are also a financial matter, a state matter? And what about the selection and placement of personnel on the basis of family ties? Does this practice not infringe upon state interests in both material and moral terms?

Many different topics for deep discussions with the chief of the fleet's financial service arise in connection with the Lyashenko case. But excuse me, I hear the sound of an approaching train. Lyashenko has probably already passed through Inkerman and he should be arriving at the platform of Sevastopol Station any time now. So let us greet him honestly, in the way that he deserves. Cancel the brass band.

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ARMED FORCES

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On the 3d Page of the Cover. Article by Yu. Babkin and S. L'vov:
"Model Measuring Line"

On the 4th Page of the Cover. A Drawing by O. Shmelev

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

HELICOPTER ASSAULT TRAINING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Captain M. Stepanov, 2nd class military pilot and deputy squadron commander for the political unit, of the Northern Group of Forces: "A Maneuver Yields Success"]

[Text] /Reporting from on board a helicopter/ [in boldface]

This takeoff was not the first one on a mission. My squadron comrades Captain S. Zaborskiy and Senior Lieutenant S. Podprugin had already received high evaluations. Lieutenant Colonel V. Viktorov, the squadron commander, noted during the flight debriefing:

"You performed well, but you should maneuver more energetically: the approach, a swift turn over the target, the assault and an immediate exit in a safe direction."

We're flying at an extremely low altitude. On the left and the right of the helicopter I see small hillocks in even patches of forest. It was not by chance that the squadron commander selected this point for dispersing: even before the mission we had carefully studied the relief of the terrain and had mapped out the route, the order of battle and the methods for overcoming the enemy's PVO [air defense]. And unnecessary tension is reduced and assurance of success shows itself because of the fact that everything is going as was planned, the characteristic reference points are recognized and the crews of the combat aircraft understand each other without words--they are observing radio silence.

We circle for some time in the hollow. We're waiting for data on the "enemy's" operations. More than once efficient interaction with the motorized rifle troops made it possible to execute the combat mission effectively. Right now, according to the plan, we must make a surprise assault against the "enemy's" tanks when they begin to deploy them into a combat formation.

There's the signal for the attack. The flight leader's helicopter soars upwards. The remaining crews are behind him. One can feel the g-force. The simultaneous attack of several rotary-wing aircraft is impressive. But this combat beauty of helicopters attacking with their firepower is terrible for the "enemy." We go into a dive. The tank profiles appear in the sight. I press the firing

button and feel it sooner than I have time to observe it as the train of missiles merges with the salvo from the other crews and rushes towards the ground to the armored targets.

Lieutenant Colonel Viktorov envisaged a daring escape maneuver from the battlefield. So the appearance of our combat aircraft literally over their heads certainly wasn't what the antiaircraft crews of the "enemy's" PVO expected. They can't open fire since we're in the so-called "dead zone" which is safe for us and disadvantageous for the "enemy." Our group diverted its attention and at this time the second flight of combat helicopters under the command of Captain V. Zotov made one more assault on the concentration of tanks. A complete success!

We're returning from the mission. I catch a glimpse as the rotors of the helicopters flash in the clearings over the tops of the trees. One must handle the aircraft delicately and in a subtle fashion. We follow the squadron commander's actions. Here at an extremely low altitude, his combat experience and flying skill replace instrument readings for us. We know that Lieutenant Colonel Viktorov isn't going to take a risk for nothing.

At the airfield they found out the results of the attack. The "enemy" couldn't deploy into a combat formation and prevent the attack operations of the motorized rifle troops with whom we were interacting. This battle checked as well the airborne training of our young comrades, pilot-navigators Lieutenants V. Dmitriyev and P. Sudakov. The crews, which included them, didn't yield to their more experienced fellow officers in the competition for high accuracy in piloting a helicopter. We see our main mission in this--not to stop at that which has been achieved, to raise the squadron's combat readiness even higher and to fully meet the socialist commitments we undertook for the winter period.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

OUTSTANDING COMMANDER AIR FORCE ENGINEER SERVICE PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Yakushenko, under the rubric "Outstanding People of the Army and Navy": "Exactingness"]

[Text] It is difficult to catch Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel A. Motriy at headquarters. His work site is the airfield, there where the technicians and mechanics work and where the supersonic, winged machines are prepared for flight. As the deputy commander for Air Force Engineer Service (IAS) of the air regiment, he gives them the authorization to take off.

Dressed in the dark-blue technician's jacket, the uniform of the aviation specialists, Anatoliy Grigor'yevich does not stand out in any way among his subordinates. Sitting down by the front landing gear strut, he "works magic" on the wheel turning mechanism along with the technician. One immediately knows, however, from the confidence with which he issues the precise instructions and rapidly makes a specific decision, from the readiness with which his subordinates carry out his orders, one immediately senses that this is the senior aviation engineer in the regiment, one with an excellent knowledge of his job. I recall what the regimental commander had to say about his deputy for Air Force Engineer Service: "Resourceful, a fine specialist. He know how to direct people."

Complacency is alien to Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Motriy, both when he works on the equipment and in his relationships with people. Engineer-Captain I. Dyagilev speaks of his chief with gratitude. The officer joined the unit after graduating from a military academy. He had the knowledge but he had little experience in working with subordinates. And they had to be directed, had to be taught. The young engineer was disturbed. He tried to do everything himself and was unsuccessful everywhere. Anatoliy Grigor'yevich noticed this. He began to tactfully teach Dyagilev the best way to plan his work day, what to give attention to first, where to step up control and where to set a personal example. And the office made good progress. Today there is complete order in his "domain."

And there are many such aviation specialists in the unit, whom Motriy has helped get on their feet, so to speak, to acquire skill and experience as indoctrinators. He spares neither time nor energy in this work. They also know in the regiment,

however, that Anatoliy Grigor'yevich is a principled communist and a demanding chief. When necessary, he is strictly demanding, regardless of the former merits of the guilty party.

Here is an example. Each time the results were summed up, the reports stated: Try to equal Senior Lieutenant of Technical Service V. Razuvayev, aircraft technician. The officer did not pass the test of fame. In time, he became vain, began looking down on his comrades and visiting the classrooms more and more infrequently, feeling that he already knew everything. In a final test, the regiment's senior engineer detected certain gaps in the officer's knowledge and unhesitatingly removed him from the servicing of the aircraft equipment. This was harsh punishment for the specialist. Razuvayev--and this speaks in his favor--correctly assessed what happened. He sat down with the textbooks. Soon thereafter, after successfully passing the tests, he went to Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Motriy and thanked him for the lesson.

Deputy regimental commander for Air Force Engineer Service is a responsible and demanding job. He must know and be able to do a great deal in order to lead such a large detachment of engineers, technicians and mechanics. Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Motriy has extensive schooling and service in the air units behind him. He was an aircraft technician, service group chief, and chief of a technical maintenance unit. His experience in working on the aircraft helps Anatoliy Grigor'yevich assure the trouble-free operation of the regiment's aviation equipment. The service headed by Motriy is considered the best in the district air forces.

...The workday is coming to an end at the airfield. He could go to headquarters, now, but the deputy regimental commander for Air Force Engineer Service needs to do a great deal of analyzing and summarizing in order to issue the proper instructions to his men tomorrow morning. The adoption of new and progressive things in the servicing of the equipment is at the center of Communist Motriy's attention.

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NAVAL FORCES

COMMANDER'S RESOURCEFULNESS INSURES SUBMARINE'S SUCCESS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Sr Lt P. Ishchenko, Red Banner Northern Fleet: "Salvoes from the Deep"]

[Text] The commander of the atomic submarine had all the grounds for believing the start of his search for the squadron of "enemy" ships to be successful. However, the idea of hugging the shoreline did not come to the officer right away. He and his closest helpers spent a lot of careful time thinking things out and working out the plan of action. For the crew, this search was to be decisive in confirming its high authority. Therefore the submariners prepared many surprises for the "enemy" in the hope of foreseeing all possible situations that could arise at sea. The commander rejected any attempts at taking the usual, well-traveled road. Other submarines had already traveled that road, and even if he were to successfully complete his mission in the old way, the commander would not have been really satisfied: No one has ever gotten ahead by doing the same old thing, and the "enemy" is too smart to sit still in standard situations.

In short, the idea of engaging in combat in the stereotypic way was rejected. And so the submarine proceeded on its hunting pattern within its selected area. Why here, where depth is limited and there is little room for maneuver? Because it is easier to remain unnoticed here. It was precisely on covertness of his active search that the commander placed his bet.

In a little while the submarine's radar resources detected the squadron of "enemy" ships at a range far beyond what sonar was capable of. It took minimum time to discover the operational disposition of the target.

"I have confirmation on the operational disposition!" the commander concluded after hearing the reports from his navigator and executive officer.

One task was done, but another one followed it immediately, in the same way that a spent shell in the chamber of an assault rifle is instantaneously replaced by a new cartridge. The disposition of the formation was clear, but which was the main target? This is always the ultimate question for submariners. To release a torpedo against an escort ship, even if this is done well, means failing the mission, and not completing it. And although there may not be many ships in the formation, the "enemy" maneuvers about constantly. The most unexpected formations may be expected.

At this moment the target at the head of the formation seemed to demand attention as the main ship of the formation. The size of the return on the sonar screen, its brightness and the nature of its noise all suggested this. But was its position too obtrusive and obvious? After all, the "enemy" could act illogically. It was precisely such illogical openness that did in a certain submarine commander who "took the bait" offered to him last year by a surface formation.

"Comrade Commander!" Captain 3d Rank S. Yefremenko offered his suggestion. "According to all the signs, target number one is the main target. But I feel that this cannot be."

The commander gave him an approving glance--it is good when subordinates are able to estimate a situation competently. In combat, an acute time shortage requires immediate decisions and the whole crew's unity not only in actions but also in thought.

Captain 3d Rank Yefremenko is strong in attack situations because he always does that which a commander especially needs. In the concluding phase he will be required to make highly precise mathematical calculations, but for the moment he is totally engrossed in estimating the situation. And his recommendations are tactically mature, accurate and fully tested.

When the commander fires, it is the crew that fires. An attack is a product of the unity of a commander's art and a crew's proficiency. Every person superimposes his own signature over the overall pattern of combat, and no matter how great this contribution is, it must be faultless.

Once during an exercise of the submarine's combat crew Captain 3d Rank V. Lipak, the chief of the combat information post, lost track of the submarine's location within the "enemy" formation in a relatively simple situation. Such a mistake would have seemed to be impossible for such a highly experienced officer, one who had been awarded the medal "For Distinction in Combat" for successful work. But Lipak overlooked one slight thing, and immediately the crew found itself in a highly complex situation. In combat, this would have meant defeat, and the commander would have been primarily responsible.

It must be said that the submarine commander was quite irritated at that time: When a novice makes a mistake, there is an explanation, but when an experienced officer suddenly turns out to be the "weak link" in an attack, a careful re-examination is called for: There is something seriously wrong somewhere. The commander checked things out. He found that training lacked intensity. And so the proficient combat crew lost interest in the training. Combat never allows for laxity in this regard. This means that every training session must be maximally complex.

In the meantime, a report came in from navigator Captain-Lieutenant V. Yakovlev. His information on the elements of the target's motion was fully consistent with the information of other specialists. And despite the "enemy" tricks, the main target revealed itself more and more distinctly.

Several times the submarine commander was on the verge of closing in with the target, but suddenly the target would maneuver. The commander was aware of what such waiting could do. He could clearly imagine how nervous Captain-Lieutenant A. Knipst, the commander of the torpedo department was getting, and how the strain was growing on Warrant Officer A. Gulyayev, chief of the torpedo team.

The "enemy" ships completed another turn. If the torpedoes were not launched at this moment, the attack would most probably have to be started all over again. And a second attempt is far from always possible in combat.

The commander hesitated for an instant as he went for a sheet of paper on which just a second earlier he had derived two figures indicating the correction that the combat crew would have to make in its weapons. Everything seemed all right, there did not seem to be any mistakes. But what was it that caused the commander to hesitate? Something was troubling the commander. Yes, at the moment everything seemed normal, but were the "enemy" to change the order of his actions as predicted, the torpedoes might go by their targets. Yes, it turned out, a correction was required. The commander transmitted his instructions just a few seconds before the salvo. And this was the critical decision: The torpedoes struck the main target and the escort ship. This is the way the best Soviet submariners fired torpedoes during the war.

Later on, after a swift and bold maneuver, a second attack was made. The commander was able to predict how the "enemy" would change his general course. This also made it possible for the crew to earn the Navy Prize for its effort.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

CIVIL DEFENSE GOALS, PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Actions Taken for Deficiencies

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
p 13

[Editorial: "Although the Letter Was not Published, Measures Have Been Taken"]

[Text] In their letter to the editor, a group of workers and employees of PMK-12 (the village of Kochubeyevka, Chutowkiy Rayon, Poltava Oblast) reported on the poor state of civil defense at that installation. The deficiencies which were brought to light in April 1983 by the commission of the "Oblmezhkolkhozdorstroy" Trust are not being eliminated and P. Kravets, chief of the civil defense headquarters, is doing nothing as usual.

The chief of the Poltava Oblast Civil Defense Headquarters, V. Osadchiy, to whom the letter was sent, informed the editorial staff that workers from the oblast headquarters, the "Oblmezhkolkhozdorstroy" Trust and the Chutowkiy Rayon Civil Defense Headquarters went to the locality to verify the facts. By order of the director of the trust, dated 9 November 1983, the chief of PMK-12, V. Fedorchenko has been awarded a reprimand for the poor state of civil defense and P. Kravets has been removed from the post of chief of the headquarters.

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New Accommodations for Workers

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
p 13

[Editorial: "The Courses Changed Address"]

[Text] Civil defense staff and course workers of the Spandaryanskiy Rayon of Yerevan wrote the editor that they have to work in a damp basement, without ventilation or sufficient lighting.

Three times the editorial staff made a request of the executive committee chairman of the Soviet of Peoples' Deputies--the chief of Yerevan Civil Defense to consider the possibility of allocating more suitable accommodations to the headquarters and courses of the rayon civil defense.

Here is a report from Yerevan. G. Oganesyan, chief of the Spandaranskiy Rayon Civil Defense Headquarters, wrote that, according to a resolution of the Yerevan City Soviet of People's Deputies, accommodations have been allotted for the courses and headquarters of the rayon civil defense. On behalf of the collective he thanked the editorial staff for the persistence and active help in resolving the important issue.

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Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
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[Article by G. Sharay, chief of the firefighting service of the Grodno Oblast Civil Defense: "Increase Fire-Resistance"]

[Text] Increasing the fire-resistance of projects of the national economy is not a one-time measure, but the daily, systematic and tedious work of fire-fighting service subunits (podrazdeleniya). Conforming to this principle, such issues in the Grodno Oblast are kept under constant control, starting with the planning stage of enterprises of industry and agriculture and then during their construction and operation. In this work our service is aware of the great support of party and soviet organs and also of civil defense staffs.

Naturally, much attention is given to increasing the resistance of flammable and dangerously explosive projects. For the purpose of a comprehensive evaluation, not only the buildings and structures are studied, but also the fire hazard of manufacturing processes and equipment. The nature of the effect from light pulses and secondary factors of a nuclear explosion are also ascertained. Sections and centers of engineering lines which are a fire hazard are studied, as is the possibility of raw material and finished products catching fire. The threat to shelters from hypothetical fires in shops and lines is determined.

So, for example, at the Grodno Azot Production Association imeni S. O. Pritytskiy the militarized fire prevention, the production and technical department, the labor safety department, the headquarters of civil defense and other services are doing systematic work on preventing emergency situations and on improving the fire-resistance of the shops. A number of measures have been developed and implemented. In the production of Caprolactam-1, thanks to the plastering of the lower part of a column, its fireproof capacity has been increased. In order to avoid spilling working fluid on the line, flange joints have been replaced by all-metal pipelines and all temporary and easily combustible structures have been taken down. A commission chaired by the chief engineer of the association has put together a long-term plan for introducing automatic fire protection systems which calls for installation of a number of new assemblies and the renovation of certain ones in service.

Sprinkler systems have been installed in each of the warehouses to decrease the spread of a toxic cloud in case of an accident with an outburst of ammonia.

In order to avoid spilling this substance, pits have been constructed under the tanks and an underground reservoir adjacent. A procedure has been specified for warning workers of possible emergency situations using local radio relay networks and the dispatcher communications of the project.

Engineering and technical personnel are especially monitoring the condition of industrial equipment and monitoring and testing instruments. They also monitor observance of safety measures during work for the purpose of accident prevention. Fire-fighting training sessions are held monthly at the enterprise. Instruction was held which concluded with the practice of actions for extinguishing a "complex fire" in the pump department of the first phase of caprolactam. Participating in this training were the militarized fire protection, the gas rescue service, the service for maintenance of public order and the combined radiation and chemical protection team.

In the course of the training, many useful measures were developed, many of which have already been implemented. A considerable part of the combustible and inflammable liquids constantly used in production have been replaced by non-combustible ones. There are underground emergency tanks for draining inflammable liquids. In order to increase the amount of supplied in the event of an ammonia cloud forming, two stationary towers with hoses mounted have been installed near each liquid ammonia warehouse in addition to the sprinklers.

The Azot Production Association is not an exception. Similar work is also being done at other enterprises. At the recommendation of our service, managers of many projects of the national economy have developed special plans of measures for increasing fire-resistance. Based on them, regional plans of engineering and technical fire-prevention measures have been made up, which have been approved and taken for verification by executive committees of the soviets of people's deputies.

Questions of protecting projects of the national economy from fires are being worked on at exercises organized by civil defense staffs. Also questions of increasing the readiness of non-military fire-fighting formations are being worked on and the reality of plans for drawing in manpower and equipment for eliminating fires and accidents is being checked. Much useful work for the national economy is being done at all of the exercises. For example, water reservoirs and piers for fire-fighting are being built, inferior and easily combustible structures are being demolished and various elements of buildings and structures are being treated with a fireproof compound. Special attention is being given to the introduction of automatic fire-extinguishing and fire-alarm systems. Much work is being done on teaching the populace the rules of fire safety at the factory and in private life.

Here it must be noted that all the fire protection measures play an important role in increasing the overall stability of the projects of the national economy. They are reflected in the summation of socialist competition in the civil defense system and, above all, ensure the functioning of enterprises in a condition safe from fire.

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Improving Competitions

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
pp 14, 19

[Article by Colonel of Medical Service M. Gogolev: "Don't Repeat the Mistakes"]

[Text] For many years competition of voluntary aid detachments and medical stations has proven to be an effective form of training personnel in the final stage and as an effective method of checking their knowledge and skills. The letters the editorial staff receives from organizers and participants of the competitions convincingly attest to this.

Among the letters from readers, however, there are quite a few with questions and complaints. The latter really gets our attention. Then, the quality of judging and even the organization of the competitions, especially at the installation-rayon level, still leave something to be desired.

Here is only one example. At the competitions in the Slonimskiy Rayon of the Grodno Oblast, which P. Taskin, chief of civil defense HQ of the Slonim Worsted Textile Plant, wrote about to the editor, 35 voluntary aid detachments passed in two streams in three hours, as he reported. You must admit that this is no longer competition, but some sort of high-speed races.

The facts outlined in the letter were verified by the Belorussian Civil Defense Headquarters. From the response it appears that the competition was conducted throughout the entire day. However, even this is not enough time for the detachments to carry out everything called for by the program. In a day not more than 8-10 detachments can pass in one stream, especially in the spring and autumn-winter time.

So as not to delay the medical aid detachments longer than allotted, it is necessary to make up a rough chart of their work by stages with an indication of the hours and even minutes. Unfortunately, this requirement is not always observed at installation and rayon competitions, as readers' letters also indicate.

The procedure for opening the competitions, the working conditions at the stages and the requirements imposed are determined by the program. At each stage the voluntary aid detachments must receive clearly formulated tasks in written form. It is impossible to decrease the volume of work or lower the requirements. As a rule, such actions adversely affect the quality of the competitions and cause dissatisfaction among the participants.

Not too long ago I had the opportunity to visit the oblast competitions in Volgograd. It was impossible to resist the questions cropping up from anyone even slightly familiar with the competition program. Why was the ability to use the DKP-50 checked on an inoperative instrument and only theoretically? Why in the "centers of nuclear and chemical contamination" were such important points as the search for "casualties" and organizing the management of medical units omitted? Why was the final disinfection worked out theoretically in the "center of infectious disease"?

Can such mistakes be avoided? There is no doubt. It would have been sufficient to have one radiation monitoring instrument with power and the detachments would have been given the full opportunity to show in practice how they are able to work. It is not so difficult also to fulfill the requirement of the program on searching for "victims". For this, extras should have been positioned in groups of various numbers (from three to five persons), and not assign four extras for each element. Given such an organization of work, the commander of the detachment would have to redistribute the elements, taking into account the situation, classify the "casualties", determine the priority of their evacuation and loading, in other words, do everything that has been prescribed.

Competitions are not merely a check on training and identifying the strongest, but also training and every minute must be used with the maximum return.

I. Yefimov from Omsk rightly remarked in his letter to the editor that we must value time. If given a break, fill it with something useful: show a film on civil defense, organize a quiz or an exchange of experience, a meeting with veterans or a collective review of the wall newspaper. Every competition must serve as an example of rational and effective use of time set aside for these purposes.

Readers justly criticize those competitions which are held in a simplified situation, violating the established requirements. However, sometimes the claims and questions arise because of insufficient information. Thus, often letters contain the question: What about drill training, shouldn't it be checked too?

Of course, drill coordination disciplines the detachment and a good song inspires it. But, under the present provisions, drill training cannot be a separate stage as before. It is checked during forming-up and at the instant the detachments march past and is graded by competent judges on a 5-point system. These grades are not counted in assigning the places, however, the best detachments are presented certificates and are noted in the critique. If this requirement will be observed, one must assume, the participants in the competitions will not have the puzzling questions.

In some cases, for some reason or other, changes or clarifications to the competition program nevertheless have to be made, which the participants need to be informed of in advance (1-2 months). If the organizers of the rayon competitions in Sochi had done this, then reader V. Saranov would not have had to ask the editor which gas masks they are authorized to work in--the GP-5 or the GP-4U? Their detachment, he reported, was penalized for using the GP-4U gas masks.

What can one say on such an occasion? Both types of gas masks are in the equipment of formations. Therefore, formally the medical detachment had the right to work in the GP-4U. If the organizers of the competitions showed a preference for the GP-5 as the more modern one and, striving to ensure equivalent work conditions, forbid the use of the GP-4U they had to make this known to all the participants and judges beforehand.

Frequently misunderstandings arise due to the lack of publicity during the summarization of results. However, in accordance with current regulation, they are obligated to post a chart (diagram chart) of the results at the competitions (starting at city and above). It is advisable to fill it in an hour after a medical detachment has completed its work at the final stage, when the period for complaints about judging has expired and all of the penalty points have been checked with the secretary.

At installation and rayon competitions, brief results are summarized at the general formation. Simultaneously, the places held by the medical detachments are announced. Starting with city competitions and above, and also at rayon competitions if more than 15-20 detachments are participating, it is possible to announce the three prize places immediately and present the awards to the winners and hold the critique 2 or 3 days later.

Summation of the results of the competitions, regardless of their size, is mandatory. This is necessary for the medical detachments and those who are working with them in order to understand their mistakes and not repeat them in the future. It is also useful to hear about the positive experience with which it is possible to familiarize oneself on the whole at the critique. A strict and objective analysis is just as necessary for the judges evaluating the work of the medical detachments at the stages.

Who must participate in the summation of the competition results? Apparently, everyone who is responsible for training the medical detachments: the chiefs of civil defense headquarters, chairmen of committees or primary organizations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and workers involved with the medical detachments. In addition, direct organizers and judges of the competitions and commanders, political instructors and element commanders from the medical teams must attend.

In practice one frequently encounters obvious underestimation of the critique. That is probably because it is so difficult overcoming the mistakes mentioned in the letters. But you see, it does not take much at all: the head judge and the senior judges of the stages prepare the concluding material and, having discussed it at a session of the organizational committee, present it at the critique. Additionally, don't just enumerate the most typical errors, disclose their causes and explain why some participants avoided penalty points and others were less lucky. In some cases it is useful not only to name the errors and give the causes, but also to show the correct execution of the step that caused the most difficulties. Then the training will be more objective and the competitions more effective.

For visual aids at the critique, one can display a chart on which to point out how many penalty points each medical detachment received at different stages. It is not hard to arrive at an average indicator (by stages and overall). It will help to see clearly who performed successfully (they will have less than the average indicator) and who are still lagging.

You should not, however, get carried away with calculations. The main goal of the critique, as was already stated, is an analysis of experience--positive and

negative. After the critique the participants should not have any unclear questions left. The organizers, in turn, should be confident that the errors committed at these competitions will not be repeated in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to dwell on those questions which need explanation during the critique. The readers most often ask them of the editor.

Let us start with the first stage--the equipment check (the condition of the equipment, its serviceability and readiness for work). According to the current regulation, all inoperative items are considered missing. Penalty points for deficiencies in equipment are not considered in determining places in the competitions.

Seemingly simple requirements and an uncomplicated evaluation, but to this day the actions of judges at this stage give rise to unfavorable criticism. Of course, omissions in the equipment of medical detachments should be noted. One must question them especially sharply in those instances when cases of ruined property are brought to light. The responsibility for shortages in equipment is borne by the civil defense headquarters and the instructors of the installations; this is their omission. That is how it must be said at the critique as well.

Another example: what is more simple than putting on a gas mask? However, medical detachment members frequently put it on over a scarf. This covering is encountered at competitions of even the highest rank. In this connection, it should have been shown at the critique that the face shield of the gas mask must fit tightly to the face and that putting it on over a scarf does not provide for a hermetic seal. As a result, a person can become a casualty even in the gas mask.

Here is another method which can serve as an example of illustration at the critique: putting on a bandage according to Mashtafarov. Sometimes differences arise in evaluating the correctness of its execution. The whole fact of the matter is that although the bandage is put on using available resources, it is necessary to cover the wound or burn with a sterile material beforehand. Neither the participants nor the judges must forget this detail.

Naturally, it is not necessary to demonstrate at the critique all the first-aid procedures in which errors are committed during performance. In specific cases it is sufficient to refer to the manual for training voluntary aid detachments.

Experience of competitions shows that organizing management of elements and conducting casualty classification remain a weak spot. By far not all the commanders are closely and thoroughly evaluating the situation in the centers. So, at the 2nd All-Russia Competitions many received penalty points in the "center of chemical contamination" only because they did not administer an antidote for organophosphorus toxic agents to those victims who did not have the symptoms of these agents indicated on the simulation card. This was an obvious mistake, since prior to entering the "center" it was pointed out to them the presence of harmful concentrations of organophosphorus toxic agents in the entire area.

Strange as it may seem, quite a few errors are committed in the partial personal cleansing area. Therefore, at the critique it is desirable to explain clearly (and possibly show as well) the sequence of actions during personal cleaning, taking into account the wind direction.

It is sometimes useful to listen to commanders of the voluntary aid detachments and their remarks and suggestions for conducting the competitions. Additionally, questions might be asked which are not directly related to the competitions but concern the training of the formations, equipment, etc. They must not be left unanswered.

An excellently conducted critique is a true school of instruction and education of not only the voluntary aid detachments, but also the judging commission. It mobilizes the participants of the competitions to further improvement of the training, to eradication of the shortcomings in work and to an increase in knowledge and skill.

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Developing Civil Defense Standards

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
p 19

[Article by Colonel S. Semenov: "How To Develop Standards"]

[Text] The editorial staff is receiving letters from military instructors requesting us to explain how to develop and adopt civil defense standards for students of the 9th and 10th grades of general educational schools and senior courses of vocational and technical schools. We are complying with their request.

A civil defense standard is, as we know, a time and quality indicator of the performance of specific procedures or tasks by individuals or a group, with observance of an established sequence (order). By working out standards, students more quickly and more successfully master the skills of using personal protection equipment, radiation and chemical detector kits, radiac monitoring instruments and skills of actions for civil defense warning signals. Furthermore, military and civil defense instructors can more objectively evaluate the training of the students and bring to light deficiencies in their knowledge.

Standards are worked out at training sessions and classes, in the process of conducting civil defense day in the training establishment and the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" military-sports games. In making up the training schedule, military instructors determine the standards, taking into account the subjects to be practiced.

Acceptance of standards is preceded by the study of the corresponding theoretical material at the lessons. The students are taught to perform one or another procedure faultlessly, at first by elements and at a slow pace. Only after this do they switch to working out a standard as a whole, taking time into account.

A standard is considered met if all imposed conditions were observed and the requirements of the corresponding regulations and instructions were not violated, including safety measures. If during the practice even one error was committed which might result in an injury or the breaking of property, the performance of the standard is stopped and the student receives an unsatisfactory evaluation. For violating the sequence of actions and also for each error pointed out in the conditions, the evaluation is lowered by one grade. The time of performance of a standard is counted on a stopwatch from the instant the command is given "Begin performing the standard" (or other established signal) until the student reports that the work is finished.

If a student has performed everything correctly, completely, observing all the established requirements and in so doing acted confidently and skillfully and managed it in the appropriate time, he is then given an evaluation of "excellent". A good evaluation is given when there are minor errors pointed out in the conditions of performing the standard and within the allotted time. If the student performed the standard, but violated the sequence of actions and lost more time than provided for by the "good" evaluation, then his work is evaluated only as satisfactory.

The basic document which specifies the procedure for accepting standards for civil defense in schools and vocational and technical schools now is "Norms of Evaluating Knowledge, Abilities and Skills of 9th-10th (11th) Grade Students in Initial Military Training" (Moscow, Prosvetshcheniye, 1974). The Headquarters of Civil Defense of the USSR jointly with the State Committee of the USSR for Vocational and Technical Education are preparing a new collection of standards for students. They all approximate the Army requirements. In the collection a detailed description will be given for each standard (21 in all) and pictures, as well as a table "Evaluation Indicators of Performing Practical Standards for Civil Defense".

According to the new evaluation indicators, in order to receive an "excellent" evaluation for putting on the GP-5 gas mask (all-arms), it must be done in 8 seconds, in 9 seconds for "good" and in 10 seconds for "satisfactory". In group performance of this standard, the time is increased by 2 seconds correspondingly. For working out the standard "using an inoperative gas mask", an "excellent" evaluation is given if the student does not use more than 8 seconds, 9 seconds for a "good" evaluations and 10 seconds for "satisfactory". For performing the standard "preparing the DP-5A instrument for operation", 4 minutes and 30 seconds, 5 minutes and 5 minutes and 30 seconds are allotted respectively and for the DP-5B, the time is decreased by 1 minute. For preparing the DP-22V instrument for operation, 1 minute and 30 seconds ("excellent"), 2 minutes ("good") and 2 minutes and 30 seconds ("satisfactory") are allotted.

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RESPONSES TO 'ROUND TABLE' DISCUSSIONS

Single Obstacle Course

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
p 22

[Editorial: "The First Step Has Been Taken"]

[Text] The discussion about introducing a single military-related obstacle course mandatory for all of the country's educational establishments, which started at the editor's "round table" (September 1983 issue), is drawing in more and more participants from the number of the magazine's readers. Judging by the editorial mail, everyone has the same opinion: an important question has been raised which has practical significance for improving the training of young students for military service. As for the "assortment" of obstacles on the course--here the points of view expressed are varied.

It turned out that even before publication of the report about our "round table" many military instructors and representatives of DOSAAF school organizations were already using one or another of the elements of a military-related obstacle course. They had amassed a certain amount of experience in this matter.

Many readers reasonably ask: Why did the discussion touch upon only obstacle courses, laying aside other types of military-related all-around combined tournaments, for example, militarized cross-country running? The authors of the letters suggest introducing appropriate changes to the programs of initial military training and "Orlenok" military sport games, to the Unified All-Union Sports Classification, to the standards of the complex of "Ready for Labor and the Defense of the USSR", etc. The editorial staff decided to continue the discussion and to invite the participation of a broad circle of military instructors and DOSAAF activists working in schools, vocational and technical schools, tekhnikums and VUZ's. Two readers' letters are carried below.

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Support Bases Needed

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
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[Letter to the editor by N. Zuyev, senior instructor-methodologist at the "Sprint" Sports and Technical Complex in Tallinn: "Teen-agers and Youth--Who Is Stronger?"]

[Text] I closely studied the article of the participants at the magazine's meeting at the editor's "round table" and heartily support the proposal to introduce a single obstacle course for all the country's educational establishments, namely a military-related one cultivated in DOSAAF. In my opinion, the idea of setting up regional support bases everywhere for conducting classes, training sessions and competitions in military-related combined tournaments also is reasonable. All of my comrades at work, military instructors of schools and chairmen of primary organizations of the Defense Society hold the same opinion.

But why did the participants in the discussion limit themselves to only the discussion of an obstacle course, separating it from, say, militarized cross-country running? After all, these two types of military-related combined tournaments (VPM) in a complex are a fine basis for comprehensive physical training of pre-conscription age youth. Furthermore, the program of finals of the "Orlenok" military sports games includes, as it is known, negotiating a military-related obstacle course as well as militarized cross-country running with grenade-throwing and firing a small-caliber rifle at 50 meters.

In schools and vocational and technical schools, as the "round-table" meeting participants justly noted, there are neither military-related obstacle courses nor conditions for conducting classes on militarized cross-country running. Competitions of the young soldiers are not held, at least we do not, right up to the finals of the republic class. In other words, only 11 of the best "Orlenok" participants from the rayon get a chance to train on negotiating the obstacle course and on the distance of the militarized cross-country running for a few days before the republic finals at one of the few DOSAAF sports bases. But do they get much benefit from such training? As a result, only 3-4 percent of the participants of the "Orlenok" games republic finals meet the standards of the lowest sports class. It must be added that, as a rule, the same schools participate in the republic finals.

There is yet another side to the problem. Who should be stronger physically: 18-year-old young men and girls or 15-year-old teen-agers? It would seem that the answer is clear, but nevertheless, under the currently effective rules VUZ students participate in the combined tournament of the "Ready for Labor and the Defense of the USSR" (GTO) complex, not the "Orlenok" games. In the athletics complex, although it is called "Ready for Labor and Defense", that is, it pursues the same goal as the VPM, there is neither a military-related obstacle course nor militarized cross-country running. There is a so-called "cross-country race", but the grown-up female students, for example, are obliged to run 1000 meters lightly dressed over a flat cinder track, but their young friends from "Orlenok" must run 1500 meters over broken terrain with a small-caliber rifle over their shoulders and, in addition, throw a grenade a distance and hit five targets. It turns out that the VUZ students are considerably weaker than the "Orlenok" students. Just where is the logic?

I believe that to ensure the physical toughening of young people which meets requirements and their true mass participation in the sports movement it is necessary to establish unified standards both in sports classification for VPM and in the GTO sports complex. As a basis, one would think, the standards of the Unified All-Union Sports Classification would be appropriate. The military-related obstacle course should be included in the program of the GTO combined tournament and the track and field cross-country run be replaced by the militarized one. Establishing rayon (city) support bases, in the meantime, is the only real way of drawing in the broad masses of student youth to pursue military-related combined tournaments. But it is necessary to establish such bases not only for putting two or three sets of military-related obstacle courses on them, but also for activities in militarized cross-country running. In such a case they will also support the training of students in the program of the "Orlenok" military sports games.

The work of rayon (city) support bases can be effective only in the event that the standards for negotiating the obstacle courses and for the militarized cross-country run are included in the initial military training program and if pre-military age youth will be given the task of mastering these types of combined tournaments at a third- or second-class sports level.

Finally, if the obstacle course and militarized cross-country run are introduced into the program of the "Orlenok" games on the level of the Unified All-Union Sports Classification, then the organizational side of the matter must also be at the corresponding level. Right now, almost everywhere people involved in out-of-school work with the students are appointed as responsible for conducting the games. No offense meant to them, but they ended up in the role of ministers without a portfolio. The leading supervisors of the games must be the director of the school and his assistant--the military instructor. Together with the athletic instructors, the military instructor must also be involved in coaching.

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Obstacle Courses Needed

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p 23

[Letter to the editor by N. Sherstobitov, military instructor at Secondary School No 2, Narimanov, Tashkent Oblast: "From 7 O'clock in the Morning...."]

[Text] I agree completely with the participants in the meeting at the editor's "round table"--a single obstacle course, mandatory for all educational establishments, will considerably improve the training of pre-military age youth for military service. In my opinion, a military-related course, cultivated by DOSAAF, is best suited for this, elements of which I utilize combined with the school obstacle course (2-meter ditch, a horizontal beam, a one-and-a-half meter wall, a maze, a one-and-a-half meter ditch, a 2-meter fence and an 80-meter run).

In place of a mere run, I added to the existing obstacles a single plank, a window to climb through, a triple plank, grenade throwing and air rifle firing. The total distance was 160 meters--considerably less than they present military-related obstacle course, but even in its shortened form its saturation enables the students to develop strength, dexterity, endurance and the ability to shoot and throw grenades--qualities needed for a future soldier.

I find time for lessons on the military-related obstacle course during tactical training of the senior students: "negotiating engineering obstacles", "reconnaissance", etc.; in the process of developing standards for civil defense. In short, one can find many suitable subjects for using the obstacle course in the training program.

Besides the lessons, the physical culture instructor and I hold contests in negotiating the obstacle course among students of the 8th-10th grades and, having removed the 2-meter fence and replacing the grenade with a tennis ball, for youths of the 4th-7th grades. These contests are especially interesting during the competition "Now then, Lads!".

It is no problem to make the obstacles for the course. It is quite possible to make them yourself or with the help of patrons.

A VPM section has been active at the school since 1981. Several dozen young boys and girls are involved in it. I conduct training sessions daily: in the morning from 7:00 to 8:00 and after classes from 17:00 to 19:30. I got much useful information for conducting the training session from the book by K. V. Lukin and G. I. Filippov "Training an All-Round Sportsman" (Moscow, Izdatel'stvo DOSAAF, 1980). S. Serebryakov, Master of Sports of the USSR International Class in VPM is giving much practical assistance. The children owe him much as a fine comrade, an experienced coach and an outstanding sportsman.

We send two teams from the school to the oblast competitions so that as many kids as possible gain the experience and receive the psychological training. Our youths perform in the men's category and our teen-agers in the youth's category and, I must say, manage pretty well. At the Tashkent Oblast Cup in 1981 we were fifth out of 13 teams. In 1982 we were second. In 1983 at the oblast championship in VPM they absolutely dominated: they were first in negotiating the military-related obstacle course, in the militarized cross-country run as well as in the rifle single combat.

Some of my military instructor colleagues may ask: What compels me to devote so much attention to sports work? I will answer thus: my direct duties. In them it is directly written: "to supervise groups for technical and military-related types of sports". This is our main task--to prepare youth for defense of the Motherland! If in each general education school, vocational and technical school and tekhnikum, and we have over 100,000 of them in our country, military instructors trained only ten youth all-rounders, a million-strong army of young people would develop, physically strong and ready for labor and defense of the USSR.

The editorial staff of the magazine has raised a very important and, consider-in the current international situation, timely question--how to improve pre-military training of young students? A real way of solving this problem has been pointed out. We must, without unnecessary talk, pass from words to deeds.

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TRAINING IN DISASSEMBLY, ASSEMBLY KALASHNIKOV DRAWS COMPLAINTS

Moscow VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 (signed to press 9 Jan 84)
pp 26-27

[Survey of letters to the editor: "Not Merely for the Sake of Speed"]

[Text] The letter from V. Krutilin, military instructor at Secondary School No 5 in the city of Nadym (Tyumen Oblast), published in the August 1983 issue of VOYENNYYE ZNANIYA under the rubric "Reader Opinion", evoked a broad response.

We would remind you briefly that it concerned a widespread trend in recent years: in the pursuit for speed in the disassembly and assembly of the Kalashnikov automatic weapon, weapon handling procedures are being violated. The ejector rod, in particular, is not detached, it is knocked out; the rifle cleaning material is driven in with a blow, etc. Comrade Krutilin feels it is time to put an end to this "high-speed fever".

It must be noted right off that the absolute majority of those who wrote the editor agreed completely with the military instructor V. Krutilin. "This is a cry from the heart," writes Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) E. Gayyer, military instructor at Secondary School No 34 in the city of Ust'-Kamenogorsk (East Kazakhstan Oblast). "I am in sympathy with comrade Krutilin a thousand times over. His paragraph is so topical that it belongs on the first page of the magazine, not the last page and it is so significant that it should have been in large print!"

"At assemblies of the military instructors of our city's schools on teaching methods," Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) A. Altashkin, military instructor at Secondary School No 12 in the city of Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy (Rostov Oblast), says in his letter, "V. Krutilin's correspondence 'Is this High-Speed Fever Needed?' was discussed. All of my colleagues supported his opinion unanimously."

There are, however, other views from military instructors as well in our mail. Comrade Krutilin, in their words, is doubting the benefit from speed in weapon disassembly and assembly. Yet, Ye. Gushchin, a military instructor from Leningrad, for example, believes that anything can happen in battle. That means that a soldier must be ready to "disregard disassembly procedures" and instantly eliminate the jamming. "Quickness of actions do not come easy without training," he further states in his letter. "That is why standards exist. They establish time limits. If the standard is exceeded, they are

encouraged for this. The author in his notes about the 'high-speed fever' believes that it is impossible to exceed a standard."

Major (Retired) I. Kolpakov (village of Zhukovo, Kaluga Oblast) defines the expression "high-speed fever" as an "inappropriate term". "One must understand and creatively carry out the provisions of the textbook on initial military training and the regulations on riflery; they are not a criterion for becoming proficient with a weapon."

First, it must be noted that comrade Krutilin did not at all speak out against the standard being surpassed. He only said that, in the pursuit for speed, basic disassembly and assembly procedures are being violated which must not under any circumstances or in any situation be disregarded. Secondly, the practice of classes, training sessions and competitions one sometimes observes is indicative of the result of the "creative" attitude toward regulations: parts are thrown out helter-skelter--they are not detached, but literally pulled out and knocked out. In return the standard is surpassed two- or threefold.

But what is the result?

"As a result of such a 'race', " writes Captain (Reserve) B. Manonnov, a military instructor at the Kanibadam Technological Tekhnikum (Leninabad Oblast, Tajik SSR), "the cleaning rod, the container and its equipment are being lost. Therefore, like it or not, the standards later on have to be relaxed."

"I work on a volunteer basis as the head of a training post," writes Captain (Retired) A. Kolesnikov from Angarsk (Irkutsk Oblast). "I can confirm that, because of rough handling during disassembly and assembly, the parts have many scratches and defects and there are dents on the magazine covers and on the breeches."

"I agree with V. Krutilin completely," he says further in his letter. "They should put an end to the 'high-speed fever'. The main condition in the disassembly and assembly of the AKM is to strive for quick and precise actions brought down to automatism. Furthermore, their strict sequence is important. Under no circumstances should one resort to blows or throw parts. Although our lads are working with training weapons, deviating from the requirements of regulations and standards is not permissible!"

Comrade Kolesnikov's last point, one should think, is especially important. A weapon cannot take imprudent handling. The well-known saying--"and once a year an unloaded rifle is fired"--once again emphasizes this. Only a strict observance of the disassembly and assembly sequence and the procedures for handling the automatic weapon guarantees against any unpleasant surprises.

Many of our readers point this out in their letters. Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) T. Nozdrachev, a Great Patriotic War veteran and military instructor at Agricultural Vocational and Technical School No 21 in the city of Palang (Lithuanian SSR), agreeing with V. Krutilin's opinion completely, suggests

that an unsatisfactory evaluation be given for some of the most flagrant errors in disassembly and assembly of the AKM, even if the student made it withing the standard or surpassed it. "Too often," the letter states, "such errors lead to tragic consequences in wartime and during peacetime combat training."

Yes, one cannot but agree with that. A future fighting man is obligated to know to perfection the working principles of the automatic weapon. That is why standards are set, so that the student, by meeting or surpassing them, can quickly and precisely disassemble the AKM, know how to clean it, oil it, examine it or eliminate jamming in a matter of seconds, and reassemble it without error and without searching for parts or mechanisms (which is why there is a specific order for packing the parts).

Standards are established and exist for this purpose, not for the sake of... standards themselves. The pursuit for speed for the sake of speed itself in handling a weapon is, at the least, absurd. This is probably what military instructors at classes and training sessions and judges at Orlenok and Zarnitsa competitions need to remember.

"A training weapons," writes V. Prokof'yev, a military instructor from the village of Demidovo (Ivanovo Oblast), "also serves training purposes. We must teach, without sparing the training automatic weapon."

"Without sparing?" Remember that in the weapons and equipment table for equipping training establishments (see appendix 6 of the initial military training program) it is indicated that training 7.622-mm Kalashnikov automatic weapons are issued permanently. When in pursuit of seconds the students, "not sparing" the AKM, use force and sharp blows during disassembly and assembly, what will the weapon (even if it is a training weapon) become in 2 or 3 years? What will the future fighting men have to use?

"The automatic weapons do not hold up," writes V. Tarkovskiy, a military instructor at Secondary School No 21 in Khmel'nitskiy, "the magazine-opening covers are constantly breaking down." In the author's opinion, the reason is the incessant training for speed of disassembly and assembly.

Comrade Tarkovskiy is generally inclined to question the advisability of devising standards in educational establishments (especially by girls). It is necessary to devise standards. This is emphasized in literally every response received by the editorial staff after V. Krutilin's note was published. However, the training automatic weapon must be spared.

Moreover, with its help students will master weapon training for not 1 or 2, but for many, many years. Each lesson in initial military training must serve the tasks of military-patriotic education. Then the military instructor will come into the military study group, tell about the universally recognized superb combat qualities of the Kalashnikov automatic weapons and show... a ransacked, battered AKM with parts missing. He will talk about the rules for storage and care of it and then praise the students who have exceeded the standards, even though in so doing a rule of the regulation was violated: parts and mechanisms are to be placed down in the order of disassembly, they

should not be placed on top of one another and excessive force and sharp blows should not be used.

Just what kind of effect in these cases will talks and explanations have? Most likely--insignificant.

The Kalashnikov automatic weapon is deservedly considered to be the best in the world. To instill respect for the labor of the designer who created it and for the labor of the workers who carried out M. T. Kalashnikov's plan and continually remind about the care of the weapon which now has been entrusted to the future soldier and which the Fatherland will entrust to him tomorrow--this is one of the main goals of the classes, training sessions and competitions and, in the final analysis, the entire initial military training. This is the purpose, not a thoughtless race for seconds!

We thank all the readers who took part in the discussion of V. Krutilin's letter.

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